



Hospital chief says the turnover of staff is natural

# A&E NURSES QUIT OVER CONCERNS

Report by Dayna Farrington

**A NUMBER of senior nurses have resigned from Russells Hall Hospital amid fears over patient safety and poor management, it is claimed.**

It is believed that eight members of staff from the A&E department have quit in the last few weeks.

It is also claimed that more than 20 nurses have left since the start of 2018.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust – which runs the hospital – has not confirmed the claims.

It comes only days after senior medical staff at the hospital hit out over ‘bullying, bed closures and failure to investigate urgent patient safety’. A letter, signed by 42 workers, raised concerns about the ‘professional conduct of the senior executives of the trust board’.

## Reduction

One member of staff, who asked to remain anonymous, said: “The thoughts and feelings of the senior medical staff is being reciprocated by nursing staff and we are getting to a point where in the last two weeks eight senior nurses have resigned.

“The main concern through senior nurses in general is we feel we are not being listened to, the failure to take note of patient safety concerns and the significant reduction in staffing over the last six months – it has reduced significantly, further compromising the safety of the department.

“If they don’t take our concerns seriously there will be even more staff resigning.”

The trust’s chief executive Diane Wake said: “It is very natural to have a turnover of staff at the trust and we continually work hard to support them by introducing additional activities and support services, such as one-to-one meetings and staff health and wellbeing walk-in clinics. Our priority continues to be quality patient care, patient safety and to encourage people to choose to work in Dudley.

“Our emergency department is facing increasing patient demand, and despite this our staff turnover is 10.55 per cent, which is below the national average of 11.4 per cent from 2016/17. Six new staff nurses will be joining the trust in September.”

## CROWDS ENJOY FUN IN THE SUN AT SUMMERFEST



X Factor runners-up Reggie M Bollie on stage at Himley with DJ Dicky Dodd during SummerFest, the biggest event in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice

CROWDS went wild as Lemar, Matt Terry and Reggie N Bollie took the stage at a fundraising music festival in the grounds of Himley Hall

Around 5,000 people crammed into the parkland for SummerFest, which raised money for Mary Stevens Hospice.

Soul singer Lemar was arguably the best-known star to take to the stage, with former X Factor contestants Matt Terry and Reggie

N Bollie drawing younger fans to the concert on a perfect sunshine day.

Thousands of pounds were raised for the Stourbridge hospice from its first major music festival.

The ambitious event came after months of hard work from the charity’s organising team.

Music fans basked in glorious sunshine on Sunday and, after the music was over, were

able to watch the World Cup final. All money raised from the event will go back into supporting the hospice, which helps families across the Black Country, and organisers are already planning next year’s event.

High-energy dance duo Reggie N Bollie, who finished as X Factor runners-up in 2015, got the crowd jumping. Dan Malin, a hospice spokesman, said: “Reggie N Bollie absolutely nailed it. The crowd went absolutely mad.”

## COURT

### Four deny killing man found in flat

FOUR young men have denied the murder of 24-year-old Jaskaran Kang who was found fatally stabbed in a flat above a convenience store in Brierley Hill.

Reggie Salmon, 20, of Stourbridge Road, Dudley, 18-year-old Dontay Ellis of Central Drive, Lower Gornal, and 17-year-olds from Dudley and Newcastle-under-Lyme, who cannot be named, entered their plea at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Monday.

Each further denied the manslaughter of Mr Kang whose body was discovered at the first floor flat in Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill, during the early hours of January 6.

The 17-year-old from Newcastle-under-Lyme admitted conspiracy to rob while the other three defendants denied this offence. They were all remanded in custody and are expected to stand trial in January.

## POLICE

### Officers investigate drive-by shooting

POLICE have launched an attempted murder probe after gunshots were fired at a man from a car in Oldbury.

Shots were fired from a silver car outside a house in Clay Lane.

The intended target was not hurt and the car sped off towards Langley High Street, West Midlands Police said.

The drama unfolded just after 8pm on Sunday with detectives now launching an appeal for information.

## MUSIC

### Jazz festival launch at free park concert

THE Budapest Ragtime Orchestra is giving a free concert in Lightwoods Park at 7pm tomorrow (Friday) to launch the 34th Birmingham, Solihull and Sandwell Jazz Festival, which runs to July 29.

## INSIDE

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# Contest to find picture perfect children

DO you have the cutest child? Does your little one look adorable in photographs? Then your child could be crowned a winner in the Baby and Toddler of the Year contest, run by our sister publication The Express & Star.

Entry is free and open to parents/guardians within the E&S circulation area with a child aged five or under.

Our official photographer will be at Intu Merry Hill between July 23 and 29 and at

the Mander Centre in Wolverhampton between July 30 and August 4. All pictures will be published in an E&S supplement and they will appear on the paper's website.

Parents will be able to bring along their children along to be photographed and will then be invited back to choose the perfect picture for the supplement. If they cannot choose, one will be selected for them.

The children will be split into four age categories; 0-9



months, 10-18 months, 19-35 months and 3-5 years. Readers will be invited to vote for their favourite. There will be a winner in all brackets, with

a £500 for prize for each category and extra £250 for the the overall winner. To vote, simply choose your favourite from all the entries.

The photographs will also be featured in the E&S on Wednesday, September 12.

Once you've chosen, cut out the special vote tokens printed each day until October 13. The deadline for returning tokens is October 19.

Along with your vote tokens, complete a Voting To-

kens Return Form, either downloaded and printed from the website or using the form available in the E&S.

Be sure to include the child's name, age category and unique voting code number.

Readers may vote as many times as they like using the vote tokens, which can be sent in batches or all together in one envelope after all tokens have appeared. Voting Tokens Return Forms MUST be sent each time tokens are sent in.

# Bear offer backfires due to store refit closure

PARENTS have vented their anger after Build-A-Bear closed its Merry Hill store on the day of a cheap teddy offer.

The chain was offering its Build-A-Bear 'pay your age' offer nationwide on July 12 leading to huge queues outside stores. But the branch on the upper mall of the Brierley Hill shopping centre was closed for a re-fit.

Build-A-Bear later reportedly abandoned the offer citing an 'overwhelming and unprecedented' demand.

Many shoppers were hoping to take advantage of the one-day deal, which sees them pay their child's current age in pounds for one of the popular stuffed toys.

A sign was put up on the shop's shutters and Merry Hill did advise of the store closure on Facebook and Twitter. But many shoppers took to social media to voice their disappointment.

A spokesman for Intu Merry Hill said the store was due to re-open tomorrow (Friday).

Elsewhere across the country, Build-A-Bear stores received an 'unprecedented response' to the promotional event, including huge queues outside the branch in Telford.

People began queueing outside the workshop from 8am, and by mid-morning new arrivals were being turned away and given vouchers by apologetic staff.

# STEM students rise to innovation challenge

FROM a reading aid for the visually impaired to a chair in a briefcase – young inventors have been showing off their creations in the MNA STEM Challenge 2018.

After months of hard work 21 teams from schools across the Black Country, Staffordshire and Shropshire presented their products to the competition judges.

The students had been set the brief of designing and manufacturing a product to improve or enhance the quality of life for a group or person they considered to be disadvantaged.

Each team was paired up with a mentor from a local business or organisation who have offered them advice and guidance since the challenge was launched.

There was a buzz in the air at Dudley College of Technology as pupils, teachers and business mentors gathered to share their ideas and working models.

## Diverse

The results were very impressive with a diverse range of products on display at the Dudley Advance II campus.

Judges spent a morning scrutinising their work plans, listening to the pupils' presentations and watching demonstrations before announcing their winners.

The overall winner was Thorns Collegiate Academy in Quarry Bank with their My Stand device, which will now be sold to help raise money for Sedgley-based Beacon Centre.

The team, named Little Einsteins, designed a stand for a mobile phone or tablet that enables blind and visually impaired people to make the most of a talking camera app called Seeing AI. As

well as holding a tablet or phone, it has an extra shelf so that a document can be placed at the ideal height and position in front of the device's camera enabling the app to read the text out aloud. The team, whose mentors were Mel Sinar and Kira Edwards from Petford Group, were in regular contact with Matt Harrison, Beacon's technology services manager, to ensure the product suited needs.

Science teacher Deb Bate said being named over-



Overall winners Thorns Collegiate Academy pupils with Dudley College principal Neil Thomas

all winners was 'amazing', adding: "It's been a great experience and we're delighted that thanks to Petford Group the Beacon Centre is going to be selling these stands in their shop."

Team member Jasmine Lawrence, aged 14, said: "It's given us a great insight into the world of work and the different jobs available. It was interesting to see how different people had interpreted the brief we had been given."

Winner of Best Work Plan, sponsored by Entrust, were Holly Hauliers from Holly Hall Academy who worked with mentors Martyn Hughes and Ryan Young from Harco Engineering on a 'chair in a briefcase'.

Express & Star editor Keith Harrison congratulated the teams, saying: "The ingenuity, dedication, organisation and the talent of those involved has shone through from the very start."

# Rooms above pub gutted by blaze

A WOMAN was taken to hospital after a fire broke above a Black Country pub. Crews from Haden Cross Fire rushed to the Spring Meadow pub, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, just before 7pm on Wednesday, July 11, moments before kick-off in the England v Croatia World Cup Match.

The blaze started in a front bedroom with customers rushing upstairs to tackle it with fire extinguishers.

Dramatic footage posted to social media by firefighters shows charred walls and multiple rooms of the living quarters devastated by the fire.

Three people were treated on the scene for smoke inhalation and a woman was taken to Russells Hall Hospital but was later released. Crews also rescued a cat from the blaze.

# Club tennis taster

OLD Hill Tennis Club has an open afternoon from 2 to 4pm on Sunday.

The club at Barrs Road, Cradley Heath, is taking part in the Great British Tennis Weekend. Call (01384) 566466 for further details.

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## Council pays out £5m for women's equal pay

DUDLEY Council was forced to pay out more than £5 million in settlements over an equal pay row.

Hundreds of women took legal action after claiming they were not being paid enough compared with male colleagues.

Councillor Steve Clark, cabinet member for finance said: "It's essential that our staff feel valued and are appropriately rewarded for the work that they do in helping us to deliver the best possible services for residents.

"In common with other councils, Dudley has had to settle claims in relation to alleged historic disparity in pay between employees.

"Under accounting rules we have been able to mitigate the financial impact by spreading the cost of these settlements over 20 years."

Dudley paid out the amount over three years, ranging from £200 to £104,447.07 for one settlement alone in 2015.

Hundreds of women took legal action against the authority in 2013. Some had accepted offers in 2010 for only a couple of hundred pounds whereas others had received up to £90,000.

Councillor Ken Finch said: "I am a big believer in equality and I think it's something I think we should've tackled years ago.

"It was on the cards years ago. I was involved when I was a member of a trade union years ago

"It's a just reward and it's no more than they deserve."

## Mayor's pledge on 'controlling group'

LABOUR'S hope of running Dudley Council has received a setback after the town's mayor said he would vote with the 'controlling group' on any vote of no confidence.

As Dudley Mayor, Conservative Councillor Alan Taylor has the vital casting vote used to break a deadlock when parties are tied.

Earlier this month, the defection of Norton ward councillor, Mike Atwood, from the Tories, opened up the prospect of Labour taking control with 36 seats to the Conservatives' 35. Labour leader Pete Lowe said he had been told by the mayor he would use his casting vote to back the largest group in the council chamber.

But the mayor has denied such a suggestion, saying: "He has mistaken me. He said I would support the largest group but I said that, as mayor, I would support the controlling group." Asked if he would be supporting the Conservatives he refused to be drawn, adding: "My quote is, I will be supporting the controlling group."

## Mother-of-six 'denied option of survival'



Natalie Billingham

THE brother of a mother-of-six who died from sepsis at hospital in Dudley has said his sister was 'denied the option of survival'.

An inquest was told that Natalie Billingham, from Tipton, died earlier this year after she was originally admitted to A&E at Russells Hall Hospital on February 28 with suspected deep vein thrombosis (DVT). Her family had previously said she spent 12 hours in a cubicle.

She was in fact suffering with necrotizing fasciitis and sepsis, which was only diagnosed hours later when her condition deteriorated rapidly. The inquest heard

blood results, which could have shown an abnormality, were not checked.

Black Country Coroner's Court heard the 33-year-old underwent surgery three times, her leg was amputated, but her devastated family were later told the infection had spread too far and caused organ failure.

She died on March 2. Her cause of death was listed as multiple organ failure.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust had apologised after her death and launched an investigation, which highlighted a number of failings and also included changes and action plans for

improvement which are in the process of being carried out.

Senior Black Country coroner Zafar Siddique recorded a narrative conclusion into Natalie's death but said he couldn't contribute neglect as part of his conclusion. He said: "I still have concerns about the progress being made at the trust and other deaths being prevented. I will be writing to the trust."

In a statement after the inquest, Natalie's brother, Trevor Rawlins, said: "Natalie was 100 per cent denied the option of survival, regardless of faults of individuals or organisations."

## Black Country Day party in Dudley town centre

IT WAS an absolutely bostin' Black Country Day as Dudley Fun Day brought crowds to the town centre for music, food stalls, children's entertainment and the revival of the town's famous annual coffin race.

The coffin race is a humorous re-enactment of an event that happened during the English Civil War in 1646 when the Cavalier and Roundhead armies called a temporary ceasefire to allow the body of Mistress Beaumont to be carried from the under siege Dudley Castle to Top Church for burial.

Chairman of the Black Country Festival Dave Brownhill said it had been a brilliant occasion.

"This is the sixth Black Country Day and the fifth Black Country Festival," he said. "The beauty of this year is the festival has spread wider across the Black Country. There are more events than ever before and I'm absolutely delighted to see that.

### Community

"It's great to see how the community has really embraced the Black Country Festival."

Other events on Saturday included Wolverhampton Fiesta in West Park, Wordsley Carnival, the OH Festival at Old Hill, Bilston's Black Country Day and Wednesbury Carnival.

Wolverhampton's Britain's Got Talent finalist Donchez Dacres made an appearance in both Dudley and Wordsley, delighting fans with a performance of his hit tune Wiggle Wine. He said: "It's an honour to be here, on Black Country Day. For the local people to embrace me in this way is just a fantastic feeling."

The festivities continue at Brierley Hill this Saturday when the Brier Fair, now in its second year, will be held from 9am to 5pm along Brierley Hill High Street. There will be arts and crafts activities in the library, street entertainment including Punch and Judy shows, face painting, the Thomas Jones fun fair and market stalls, plus a programme of entertainment including military band, choirs and dance groups.

Also the Summer in the Park event is held at Dudley's Buffery Park from 11am to 5pm, including wrestling, classic cars and a land train.



It's the thumbs up for Black Country Day from the Mayor of Dudley Councillor Alan Taylor at Stone Street



Wiggle Wine time with Donchez Dacres at Wordsley



It was an uphill task in the heat for these coffin racers

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Celebration for support service

A CELEBRATION that included a signed singing performance marked the launch of a new disability service for Dudley borough.

The service will support people with physical and/or learning disabilities, special educational needs or autism.

Dudley Disability Service is a joint project between Dudley Council and partner agencies including voluntary groups Dudley Voices for Choice and Dudley Parent Carer Forum to help people live independent lives.

The event at Dudley College and included speakers from the local authority as well as marathon man Blind Dave Heeley.

### Beacon bullseye thanks to league

BEACON Centre for the Blind in Sedgley has hit the bullseye with a cash donation of £2,000 from a darts league in Wolverhampton.

Wolverhampton Wednesday Night Ladies Darts League has been supporting Beacon ever since the league's formation in 1954.

The cheque was presented at Wednesfield British Legion Club during a celebration event on July 7. The evening also included a trophy ceremony. Arwyn Jones, chief executive at Beacon Centre, said: "We are very grateful for the support."

### Cash boost for park and church

NEW facilities have been added to a church and park in the Black Country after receiving funding from a super-market group.

The Central England Co-op has handed out £11,800 to worthy causes across the West Midlands through its Community Dividend Fund.

Friends of Hurst Green Park, in Halesowen, received £2,500 for play equipment.

Electric heaters will be installed at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, in Old Hill, after a £2,000 donation.

### New twice-week flights will be Morocco bound

NEW flights to Morocco are taking off from Birmingham this autumn.

Air Arabia Maroc is launching a service connecting the West Midlands with Agadir, a city on the Atlantic coast of the north African country.

The twice-weekly scheduled service from Birmingham Airport to the Moroccan resort city known for its beach, promenade and golf courses will start from October 1, operating on Tuesdays and Fridays.

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## 4 Free summer swimming for children

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, July 19, 2018

CHILDREN will be able to swim for free at leisure centres in Dudley, Stourbridge and Halesowen over the summer holidays.

Dudley Council bosses have announced the move to encourage youngsters to stay active, keep fit and help beat the boredom during the six-week break.

The offer will be on at Dudley Leisure Centre, Halesowen Leisure Centre and Crystal Leisure Centre in Stourbridge during public swimming times. Children up to and including the age of 16 who reside in Dudley borough are eligible.

Free swimming will start on July 21 and finish on September 2, the day before most children return to school.

Registration must be completed in advance and parents can sign their children up at [www.freeswimindudley.co.uk](http://www.freeswimindudley.co.uk) where they will then be issued with a QR code which can be scanned every time they visit one of the leisure centres.

Families without access to the internet can sign up at any of the borough's libraries.

### Prize

Children who register before Saturday will automatically be entered into a free prize draw to win an annual junior membership at the leisure centres.

Councillor Ruth Buttery, cabinet member for health, said: "We are very keen to promote initiatives that encourage children in our borough to stay fit, active and healthy."

Sessions outside of public swimming times, such as Aqua Run at Halesowen, are not included. Children and families are advised to turn up early to avoid queues at peak times.

Children aged eight or over may enter the pools unaccompanied. All under the age of eight must be accompanied into the water by an adult (over 16). One adult may accompany up to two children aged under eight.

# Location of proposed new girls' school is confirmed

## Top stylist cuts deal to work with college



Lee Stafford officially launched the partnership with Halesowen College to train tomorrow's hair stylists

A COLLEGE has launched a new partnership with an award-winning hairdresser.

Halesowen College will be teaming up with Lee Stafford Education later this year. Celebrity stylist Lee Stafford aims to create the very best training opportunities in the world for would-be hairdressers.

With a launch planned for September,

the aim is to ensure students are the most employable in the region and that Halesowen College is recognised as 'the place to train'.

The college is one of only 12 Lee Stafford Academies in the country. Lee said: "I'm absolutely delighted to be partnering with Halesowen College and really looking forward to working alongside trainers and students."

Jacque Carman, college director of finance and corporate services, added: "We are thrilled to be working with Lee, who has already delivered the most amazing masterclass to our hair-dressing students."

"This is an exciting opportunity for the college."

To find out more visit [www.halesowen.ac.uk](http://www.halesowen.ac.uk) website.

## CONCERNED residents flocked to a school hall to have their say on controversial plans for a 750-pupil girls' boarding school.

The public event, held at Old Swinford Hospital, on Heath Lane, saw members of the community questioning headteacher Paul Kilbride over the proposals.

It was confirmed the site being considered for the new free school was off Norton Road, opposite the Roman Catholic graveyard, owned by the Thomas Foley Foundation. Speaking at the meeting, Old Swinford Hospital headteacher Mr Kilbride said: "We are in consultation with planning consultants because there is precedent for education buildings being put on that land."

He said the new school would be targeting 'disadvantaged girls'. Mr Kilbride said: "For the first time the Government itself has identified this local authority district as a targeted area, which means it is a part of the country where a new free school will have the greatest impact on improving outcomes."

### Funding

"In terms of what we are proposing, it is a free school and by a free school we mean a state school which receives its funding directly from central Government, directly from the Department for Education, and a school which is set up to meet local needs."

"It is non-selective, it is not a grammar school, it is a non-denomination school and a single sex school. Stourbridge frankly does not need another secondary school, but our local authority certainly does and the Black Country certainly does."

"We think that our founder Thomas Foley, who was a Black Country boy through and through, would approve."

## NEC Lakeside Proms events are cancelled

THE NEC Birmingham has cancelled a planned weekend of live outdoor Proms-style music events.

Lakeside Proms was due to take place on the grounds of the complex on August 4 and 5, but the venue this week announced it was being called off due to 'unforeseen circumstances'.

A brief message posted on the event's page on the NEC website read: "Due to unforeseen circumstances, NEC Lakeside Proms with The Royal Philharmonic due to take place on 4th and 5th August has been cancelled."

"The organisers are very sorry for any inconvenience caused. Ticket holders should contact The Ticket Factory to receive a full refund."

It is unclear whether slow ticket sales or other problems were behind the cancellation.

Lakeside Proms was to feature the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and a firework display.

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# Call for businesses to be forced to display food hygiene score

**RESTAURANTS with low hygiene ratings should be made to display their scores to customers in a bid to force them to improve, a councillor says.**

Councillor Adam Aston is calling on Dudley Council to support a campaign to change the law which would then make the display of Food Standards Agency ratings compulsory. The move would bring England into line with Welsh and Northern Ireland laws.

## Darlings add glamour to 40s weekend

GLAMOROUS wartime elegance prevailed at a popular 1940s weekend starring TV singing sensation The D-Day Darlings.

Visitors to the Black Country Living Museum got into the spirit by donning tea dresses and tailored suits for the annual two-day nostalgia bing. This year there was more of a buzz than usual with the return of the D-Day Darlings, who since their last performance at the museum a year ago have become a household names after making thousands of new fans via TV as Britain's Got Talent finalists. At the weekend they sang twice in the park before performing four sets in the Workers' Institute on both days. Also performing were George Formby tribute act Joe Thomas and singer Pete Wayne.

The D-Day Darlings raise funds for the Royal British Legion, so far raising £40,000.

The Upper Gornal and Woodsetton ward councillor was speaking as the local authority discussed a report on its Food and Feed Service Plan for the coming year.

Councillors were told 983 food outlets had been inspected by council officers on behalf of the Food Standards Agency during 2017.

Businesses are rated from zero to five for food hygiene and after inspections are given a sticker which they can choose to show at the entrance to their premises.

### Public

Councillor Aston said that although the ratings were available on the Food Standards Agency's website, only high scoring food outlets displayed them to the public.

Asking Councillor Ruth Buttery, cabinet member for health and well-being, to write to the Health Secretary supporting the Local Government Association's campaign, he said: "The health impact of unsafe food can be life changing and potentially life ending, particularly for the very young, the very old or those with chronic conditions."

"Displaying ratings would undoubtedly push up food standards."

## Glazing firm are celebrating success



Howells Patent Glazing's business development manager Tracey Jackson, right, and Debbie Willetts, the financial controller, with one of their two awards

SANDWELL has been celebrating the success of its business sector with its third annual awards event.

There was double success for Cradley Heath company Howells Patent Glazing, which took both the innovation award and another prize for commitment to apprenticeships.

The company said its success highlighted Howells' commitment to its employees' career development by offering various courses both internally and externally delivered.

Debbie Willetts, financial controller and training mentor, said: "We have been really amazed at the positive responses that we have encountered from staff with these courses, management have led by example and this approach has seen great uptake and requests for further opportunities."

It also underlined the importance of keeping up to date with new practices and innovation, said sales director Gary Howells: "We can not afford to stand still, we have to invest in our future."

Central TV presenter Sameena Ali-Khan was the host at the awards at Sandwell College, which are organised by the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, Sandwell Business Solutions Centre, Sandwell College and Sandwell Council.

The business person of the year award went to Paul Hull of KMB Shipping Group in Burnt Tree, Tipton. Mr Hull is European & Irish director of the freight forwarding company.

## Beating victim guided police to attackers

THE victim of a vicious unprovoked beating in Dudley was able to direct police to his attackers by following them.

Darren Hanson was walking in Wolverhampton Street on his way home shortly after midnight on December 3 when Samuel Blezard, 34, and 21-year-old Jordan Ledgister, who had both been drinking, confronted him, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. The younger man forced him against a window and kicked him, said Mr Lal Amarasinghe, prosecuting. Then both defendants gave Mr Hanson a savage beating, raining down punches and kicks as he lay on the ground.

As the pair left, Blezard picked up a bag which contained a video camera that had been dropped by 46-year-old Mr Hanson. The victim bravely kept the two men in sight after calling the police and giving them a running commentary on their whereabouts.

When questioned Blezard had no recollection of the attack and said mental issues had driven him to drink and drugs but he was trying to get his life back on track, said Mr Ekwali Tiwana, defending. Ledgister, of Brewery Street, Dudley, pleaded guilty to assault and was locked up for 12 months while Blezard, of Selbrook Road, Lye, admitted robbery and was jailed for two years eight months.

## Community cafe gets a facelift in revamp

A COMMUNITY cafe in Halesowen has closed for a week for refurbishment and improvements.

Coffee Cups in Thornhill Road, Hasbury, which raises funds for the Halas Homes charity, will re-open on Thursday, July 19 at 9am.

It is getting a new layout and an outside awning area as part of the revamp.

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IN MY VIEW  
with Mark Andrews

# Not sold on market landmark entrance

THE finishing touches are being put to Wolverhampton's £5 million market, with the piece de resistance being a new landmark entrance. And it is certainly that. Visitors to the new showpiece, on the site of the old Rackhams store in Snow Hill, will be greeted with a pile of shabby-looking shipping containers with City of Wolverhampton Market written across one of them. Very Shoreditch.

Personally speaking, I think they've missed a trick. Why not put in a pile of partially dissembled Ford Cortinas, a crane with a giant magnet, and a tattooed skinhead in a caravan holding a pit-bull on a string? Still, I suppose £5 million doesn't go that far these days.

The public response has been somewhat lukewarm, in that everybody hates it. Which, of course, will be music to the ears of the "creatives". "Provoking debate" and "providing an interesting talking point," will no doubt be their interpretation. Then again, The Blitz got people talking, but you wouldn't say it was entirely good for London, would you?

Do they never learn? It was the same in the early 1990s, when Wolverhampton Council had the bright idea of blocking the roads with huge flower tubs. A few months later they were removed at great expense following uproar from the public.

Then there was the hideous 'artwork' along both the Black Country Route and the Dudley Southern Bypass. I remember driving past the Cinder Bank roundabout in Dudley one morning when these random bits of orange metal suddenly appeared. I thought a lorry had shed its load. Still, credit where it's due, at least the new market is true to the history of the site. It was an eyesore before the investment, and it's an eyesore now.

TEACHER Helen Pattison was among the protesters demonstrating against Donald Trump's visit to the UK. Good for her you might think. Everyone has the right to protest. Except that Miss Pattison not only staged a classroom walkout to take part but also told a newspaper she was taking pupils along with her too.

"We have not just a right to protest, but a duty," she said. Well, no actually. Your duty is to teach pupils skills that will get them a job when they leave school. And to be impartial, leaving your political views at home, no matter how strongly you feel.

The Department for Education recently hit out at parents who took their children on term-time holidays, saying every day at school was valuable. Maybe they should have a word with Miss Pattison.

## Time, perhaps, to dig out the long sleeves and trousers



Trump's arrival sparked comment from every conceivable, ill-educated source



Emotional Olivia Colman, who kicked off another series of Who Do You Think You Are?



Farewell to Poldark's evil vicar Osbourne Whitworth, played by Christian Brassington

# Trump's visit to a well-red populace

OH, isn't it fun, sneering at the ill-educated lower orders? From the Guardian website comes this lofty put-down: "After all this hot weather Trump is going to feel at home. Rednecks everywhere." Brilliant, darling – except that's not how you spell "everywhere."

AS the NHS prepares to ration 17 procedures, a reader suggests the ultimate aim is to ignore anyone who can be described as 'poorly'. Who knows? On this 70th birthday of our health service, all that seems to matter is that the NHS is 'free at the point of delivery'. Does anyone who spouts this well-worn and hugely misleading phrase ever visit a dentist or optician?

HAD that Barbour moment yet? It's the one, deep into a sweltering heatwave, when you open a wardrobe full of waxed jackets, fleeces and scarves and cannot imagine why you would ever wear such things again. Come February you may experience the exact opposite as you stumble upon your skimpy-shorts drawer. .

WELCOME back to Who Do You Think You Are (BBC1), a show in which celebrities compete to see how quickly they can burst into tears over something that happened hundreds of years ago to a distant relative they hadn't heard of until that moment. In the first show of the new series, Olivia Colman got off to a fine start by blubbing, after just 10 minutes, about her great-great-grandmother being sent from India to England at the age of three in 1812.

THIS is a delicate matter. As the height of

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



the male population increases (from 5ft 8ins to 5ft 10ins in the past 50 years), is the height of public conveniences also rising? I fear an epidemic of RHU may be upon us. Your tales of Ridiculously High Urinals will be treated in strict confidence, unless they are amusing.

BEFORE long, a certain amount of wet stuff will presumably fall from the heavens and end England's drought. Two things about rain always take us by surprise. First, a few hours before the deluge, your house fills with big, black hairy spiders looking for shelter. Secondly, as water reacts with rubber and oil, the roads turn into ice-rinks. Bad times for arachnophobes, great opportunities for insurance firms to bump up premiums. Drive slowly and carry a big slipper.

IT never occurred to me that in Poldark's time, when ye streets were paved with manure and folk washed once every decade or so, that foot fetishism would be quite as popular as the ill-fated Reverend Osbourne Whitworth (Christian Brassington) suggests. Tic Tac, vicar?

"WE won't see anything like this again," declared one proud visitor in the Mall as the RAF's 100th anniversary flypast roared overhead. I wonder how many aircraft had to be cannibal-

ised by RAF technicians to put all those 103 planes in the air at the same time. It took me back to the First Gulf War in 1990 when I was at the RAF base in Bahrain as the Tornados were being prepared for battle. In the heart of the plane is an access shaft where techies squeeze in to get at various black boxes and wiggles. It was a job reserved for the smallest, thinnest bloke in the team and you couldn't help thinking of Victorian children being sent up chimneys.

I DO get a wee bit worried by those who take a malicious glee in telling us that it is impossible to leave the EU. Not even the British Empire hung on to its possessions so grimly. If we really are in an empire from which there is no escape it is, by definition, an evil empire.

I HAVE just been on another train. That makes three in eight years. This week's ride took me on the train from Coventry to Leamington Spa which now, after a gap of 53 years, again stops at Kenilworth. In ye olden days I was a trainee reporter on the Kenilworth Weekly News. In the silly season, we could always fill half a page with speculation about when the old station would be reopened. As the old saying goes, everything comes to he who waits (except the things that don't).

LEAMINGTON, like most big towns and cities has seen huge celebrations for the World Cup but not a drop of rain to wash away the results. I have never seen so much dried vomit spoiling the pavements. As that fine old football anthem goes: Three Lagers on My Shoes.

## TALKING POINT

# Fuelling my fears after filling up on hols

THE feeling is one of panic, tinged with confusion and dread.

After filling up with petrol on holiday, I walk towards the garage shop to pay, reach for my wallet, and find my pocket is empty. I go inside and explain my predicament.

The assistant is next to useless and seeks advice on what to do, muttering "This gentleman has a problem with petrol or something". I'll say it's a problem! I'm stranded in a strange place, and never having been in this situation before, have no idea what to do. It's not as if I can put the petrol back in the pump, is it?

The second assistant is more switched-on and gets straight to the point: "I can't let you drive off." Fair enough, but then I'm left in no doubt as to how serious this is. "Have you no means of paying at all?" "Nothing."

"Bank card? Someone who can phone through with the payment? Contactless account on your phone?"

By now I'm trembling, my mouth is dry and I'm talking gobbledegook. After weighing up the options, I place said phone on the counter and offer to leave it as security. That suggestion triggers a solution. I'm asked for my name, address, make and model of vehicle, registration number and made to sign a print-out.

It's only when I get back to the car that I gather my thoughts sufficiently to remember there's always a bag of change in the glove box for parking, and so I start counting out coin after coin. It soon becomes obvious there isn't enough to pay for the petrol but then I put my hand back in my pocket and find just enough change to make up the total cost.

With tail between my legs, I slope back into the shop. "Guess what?" "You've found your wallet?"

"No, but I've scraped together enough change to pay."

And so we count out all those coins again, and with phone back in my possession, I continue on my way.

Mind you, I'm glad I left it till later to read the small print on the "No means to pay at Pump 2" receipt, which said I had agreed to "make payment within 24 hours" and "advised" my details may be passed to a debt collecting agency if I did not comply with the agreement I signed. Talk about putting a dent in your day!

Nearly forgot: I retraced my steps and got my wallet back within an hour. I'd left it in a shop I'd been to before filling up.

Let this be a warning. Check you have the wherewithal before taking that nozzle out of the pump. Happy motoring!

STEVE PARLETT

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# Too little compassion shown for diabetics

ONE thing which is not mentioned much these days is the treatment of our diabetic population. I mean the attitude in which diabetics are treated.

I have been diabetic, Type 1, since 1967, and in that time I have seen many advances in medical treatment. When I was first diagnosed I used a glass syringe and inch-long needles, the latter I was expected to sharpen myself. There was no home testing of blood and a six-monthly visit to the hospital was the best on offer.

These days we have insulin pens with tiny painless needles and home

blood testing is done in a jiffy. Medical knowledge has advanced so much, thanks in part to such organisations as Diabetes UK. But one thing has not changed and that is the way some diabetics are treated by other people.

I am retired now, but since becoming diabetic I have received all sorts of comments, some very upsetting. Employers are not free from blame. HR departments are at many times insensitive to the problems and needs of the diabetic. I had to give the head of one a leaflet about diabetes, and this an organisation employing many thousands.

My supervisor used to tell people that I 'shot up' when I injected. Very few people showed me any understanding.

Diabetes is not just a case of injecting insulin. There are problems with the kidneys, feet, circulation, heart and eyes. All these things can cause depression. And unless you are diabetic or know someone closely who suffers it, there is little understanding. In this high speed world compassion and concern are way down the list on people's lists of priorities.

MR C K MILLWARD  
Tipton

## Industry threats a form of blackmail

THE more we hear about Brexit the more it makes me wonder why we fought two wars resulting in the deaths and maiming of so many people, when we are being subservient to countries we either fought against or were on the same side as us.

We have the habit of talking this country down instead of putting our minds and backs into making it great once again.

Industrialists are threatening to pull out of this country if things do not go the way they want.

If this is what they want, then as far as I'm concerned let them do it and then slap huge taxes on the goods they want us to buy.

After all, do we really like to be blackmailed which was, I thought, illegal?

LEN HALES  
Cradley Heath

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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## World to trade with

IN the past few months, we have heard various industries vowing to pull out of Britain if the Government doesn't get a good deal.

In 1979, as an engineering technician apprentice with Beans Engineering at Tipton, I was actually working with the senior management team as part of my training. The manager of the purchasing department travelled to Brazil to try to secure a contract to supply their Navy with Thornycroft marine engines for their inshore patrol boats. Unfortunately they didn't get the contract.

Has British industry got so entwined with the EU that they are ignoring the fact there is a whole world out there to trade with, or is it that the senior managers no longer have the ability to tender for contracts anymore?

The European Common Market was set up for trade, it has turned basically into a dictatorship. Better off out of it!

MARTIN STONES  
Dudley

## Brexit – time to vote again

NEGOTIATING Britain leaving the EU is proving costly and complicated with uncertainty over the advantage of a future outside the union.

Brexiters fought their corner with empty platitudes. Their nationalistic rhetoric sounded good when aimed at swaying emotion, by envisioning a return to Britain's glorious past.

Nationalism and patriotism became confused. A patriot loves his country and is realistic of its relationship with other countries. This does not mean he doesn't want the best for his country but is rational as to what is the best and how to obtain it.

Two years on from the referendum, would those who voted to leave, in the face of reality and clarity, vote in a similar way? The answer can only come with another referendum. It would be remarkable if the result remained the same.

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## 8 Firm's new carbon fibre breakthrough

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, July 19, 2018

A DUDLEY firm is keeping the flame of Black Country innovation burning brightly after coming up with a revolutionary new kind of carbon fibre.

The new material is heat resistant, lightweight, cheaper to make and produces zero waste in its production, while two major cruise ship builders are already talking to the company about its use.

Carbon Fibre Preforms has spent the last seven years developing the material, called FR10, which it says has the potential to revolutionise the panel industry worldwide.

CFP is now partnering with the private investor network Growthdeck to raise finance for expansion of production to meet predicted global demand from end users across the train, aeronautical and shipbuilding industries as well as oil and gas drilling sectors.

CFP says the interest centres of FR10's potential use for panels instead of stainless steel, because of its ability to meet stringent fire safety regulations. The company says that, unlike other forms of carbon fibre, finished panels of FR10 are heat resistant at temperatures up to 1,200 degrees Centigrade for up to four hours.

CFP's managing director, Simon Price, is in "significant talks" with Mayer Werft and STX, the two largest cruise ship builders in the world.

## All that jazz coming to the libraries too

LIBRARIES and museums will take centre stage at a jazz festival launching tomorrow (Friday). One of the many highlights of the Birmingham, Solihull and Sandwell Jazz Festival's opening weekend is West Bromwich-born singer Val Wiseman's tribute to Billie Holiday at Central Library West Bromwich, on Saturday.

# Backlash after animal rights group calls for ban on Staffies

## Students help Chernobyl's children



Youngsters from Belarus meet students and staff at the college, where they enjoyed fun activities

FOUNDATION degree students at Halesowen College have arranged lots of fun activities for children from Belarus who health problems due to the long-term impact of the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

The children, aged eight to 12, come to the region for a month every year to help improve their health, which has been affected by radiation following the contamination from the 1986 disaster in the former Soviet Union.

The college has close links with the charity, Friends of Chernobyl's Children Black Country, who arrange the visit. The fun day was organised by students studying a Foundation Degree in Learning Support.

AN ANIMAL rights group has been accused of attempting to 'blacken the name' of Staffordshire Bull Terriers by trying to get the breed banned.

The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has demanded Staffies be added to a list of species prohibited under the Dangerous Dogs Act, saying they are often abandoned.

PETA says the best way to end the abuse is to stop people breeding the animals but their call has been met with mass public opposition.

A petition urging the Government to reject the calls has attracted more than 160,000 signatures, with the highest number of signatures in the country coming from Cannock Chase and Stafford.

Across the county more than 3,000 people signed the petition, which was debated by the Petitions Committee in Westminster Hall on Monday.

Warley MP John Spellar awas among those to speak in defence of Staffies. The Labour MP Mr Spellar accused PETA of attempting to 'blacken the name' of Staffies.

### Absurd

He said: "It is absurd that this organisation is trying to ban them, rather than deal with the vicious owners and those who get involved in dog fighting. That should be the priority - not damning a breed that is so appreciated by so many in the West Midlands."

The pro-Staffie petition was set up by Steven Quinn, who said: "It would be a terrible tragedy for the dog lovers of the UK to lose the right to own one of these great companions. People create dangerous dogs, people are the problem."

The Government has no plan to add Staffies to the Dangerous Dogs Act.

## Two off-duty nurses help injured boy

A 12-year-old boy was left badly hurt after being hit by a car in Wall Heath, near Kingswinford.

Paramedics were called to the scene outside The Wall Heath Tavern where the boy was treated for his injuries.

Off-duty nurses who happened to be on the scene at the time gave the boy first aid before he was given pain relief and taken to Russells Hall Hospital.

A West Midlands Ambulance spokesperson confirmed: "We were called at 6pm on Monday. One ambulance attended."

"We treated a 12-year-old boy who was taken to Russells Hall hospital. A couple of off-duty nurses that were on scene provided first aid."

"He suffered a number of serious injuries and was given pain relief on scene and immobilised."

Police were also called to the scene shortly after 6pm on Monday.

ADVERTISEMENT

# A new life

When former specialist nurse Sheila Haycock finally found a solution for her failing teeth she quite literally received a prescription for a new life . . . and so did her husband, Dave.

Emotionally broken by a catalogue of dental disasters, for a whole year she suffered pain every day and her confidence plummeted. "Each day was a nightmare."

"Every day I'd have a new ulcer in my mouth. I couldn't eat properly, stopped going out and couldn't face looking at myself in a mirror - in fact, I'd cover them up."

"I'd speak and laugh with my hand in front of my mouth, avoid having my picture taken and couldn't chew properly - if I did go out, I'd always have to order lasagne because it was soft food," she recalls.

### Terrified of dentist

Sheila's problems began when her natural teeth became mobile and braved her worst fears, having a full clearance to make way for an upper and lower denture.

Terrified of the dentist, she adds: "I thought it was impossible for things to get worse, but nothing could have prepared me for the next 12 months. The first time I took my teeth out and looked in the mirror, psychologically, I was beside myself."



Sheila and Dave Haycock - a new outlook on life

"I'd been so preoccupied with mastering my fear of the dentist, I hadn't worked through the impact of losing my teeth would have on me. It was devastating."

Initially, Dave confesses to "not being that helpful," explaining her native teeth "needed to go and to deal with it."

"I know, I told him," says Sheila, "but they were mine!"

Even the loss of a single tooth is now clinically recognised as a potential precursor for a mourning process.

Adds Dave: "She was upset and I felt utterly helpless. The guilt of it all . . ."

I wanted to help, but couldn't. I could eat what ever I wanted, but she couldn't and every day - every day - there was a new problem to address."

Retired nurse Sheila got a new smile after a year of dental misery, husband Dave admits he too is now enjoying the life changes it's brought about.

## Predictably reassuring

My experience with Steven and his team was the best. Getting the implants really is money well spent.

- Roy Phillpott

Steven's professionalism gave me the confidence and assurance that they could resolve my problem.

- Norma Aston

When I first saw my teeth I thought they looked just like my real teeth.

- Vicki Ball

it over and over again. I was not coping."

Taking advice from her daughter, who had received a recommendation from a work colleague that North Street Dental and Implant Clinic could help, Sheila headed for Dudley.

"Within 15 minutes of walking in to the surgery Steven [practice principal Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng)] was helping me," she says.

As a temporary measure, an oral impression was taken and her painful dentures lined with a soft material that would help ease the discomfort and improve fit.

### 'Own teeth'

Sheila was prescribed a traditional top prosthetic and a lower over-denture, retained on two implants. The surgery was carried out under sedation by North Street's clinical lead, Owain Rees BDS DGD(UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC61576.

"All I can say is that it has completely changed my life. There's nothing I can't eat and the implant prosthetic doesn't feel false. It's comparable for me to my own teeth. When I first saw my new teeth in the mirror, I thought who's this person? They looked natural, just like real teeth," says Sheila.

Dave, a former civil engineer, adds: "She's completely different. It's been life-changing for me too and we can now get on with our retirement."

Both keen gardeners, they agree the financial investment is in a quality life choice. "It's the best thing she's ever had done," adds Dave.

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# Dudley-born minister resigns over sex texts

**A DISGRACED** Dudley-born Government minister has quit his role after sending 'depraved' messages to two female constituents.

Andrew Griffiths, son of a former mayor of Dudley, is said to have bombarded a 28-year-old barmaid and her friend with lewd comments over social media during a three-week period.

The former High Arcal schoolboy sent 2,000 messages in which he referred to himself as 'Daddy', suggested renting a flat so they could meet for sex and asked them to send him explicit photos, the Sunday Mirror reported.

The 48-year-old married father, whose wife Kate gave birth to a daughter in April, resigned as minister for small business on Friday night.

## Ashamed

In a statement he said he was 'deeply ashamed' and was seeking 'professional help to ensure it never happens again'.

Mr Griffiths, the MP for Burton upon Trent, grew up in Coseley where his family ran an engineering business. His father, the late Bob Griffiths, was a Dudley councillor for three decades and served as mayor.

In April, just a fortnight after becoming a father for the first time, he launched the Black Country Business Festival. He joked to the audience at the Black Country Living Museum about being 'on paternity leave' and recalled being pictured, aged 12, pulling pints at the Bottle & Glass pub when his father opened the museum in 1981. But those family recollections were a distant memory after the seedy allegations of the weekend.



Andrew Griffiths with his wife Kate, who gave birth to their daughter in April

Barmaid Imogen Treharne told the national newspaper that, after meeting him online, the Conservative MP 'didn't want to speak to me about anything other than sex'.

She said: "I wanted him to be a nice guy, but by the end I felt dirty. I felt like I was being used for this wealthy man's gratification."

In a statement to the Sunday Mirror, Mr Griffiths, who once worked

as Theresa May's chief of staff, apologised to 'all those who put their trust in me and that I have let down so terribly'.

He said: "I am deeply ashamed at my behaviour, which has caused untold distress to my wife and family, to whom I owe everything, and deep embarrassment to the Prime Minister and the Government I am so proud to serve."

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# Plenty of pomp with our proud prom-goers

STUDENTS have been showing off their stunning ball gowns and sharp suits and tuxedos as they hit the dance floor to celebrate the start of summer.

It's that time of year again when students turn on the glitz for a special night out to mark the end of the school or college year.

And the Chronicle wants to see pictures of you getting dressed up to the nines or arriving in style at your venue.

More unusual snaps are also welcome, from matching prom dresses to wacky transport – we would love to see your quirky ideas sent in.

It's not just proud parents and happy students who can get involved, teachers are also welcome to submit pictures of their pupils.

And it seems no expense has been spared in ensuring pupils have made entrances worthy of a red carpet arrival at a movie premiere.

## Style

Among those getting all dressed up this year were students from Bristnall Hall Academy in Oldbury who held their prom at Malmesbury Birmingham.

Many students got the chance to arrive in style, being taken to their destination in sports cars and limousines – but a great night was had by all as these young people began the next chapter in their lives.

Youngsters from Ounsdale High School in Wombourne were treated to a pre-prom party in the village before they took off in a limousine for more celebrations at the Village Hotel in Dudley.

Earls High School in Halesowen were treated to a top-notch night at



Hollie White and Adam Smith from Earls High, Halesowen



Pedmore Tech's Bethany Edwards, Gemma Smith and Jessica Gaymer



Ounsdale High School's pre-prom garden party took place in Wombourne the Copthorne Hotel at Merry Hill, in Dudley.

Wolverhampton Girls' High School pupils danced the night away at the Mount Hotel in Tettenhall and youngsters at Pedmore Technology College went in-house for their celebrations, with an event held in the school hall.

Finally, lucky students at the Ace Academy in Tipton enjoyed their night

at West Bromwich Albion's football ground, The Hawthorns.

They were among dozens of prom-goers who shared snaps of their big night last summer and we want more of you to follow in their footsteps.

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## 12 Hat-trick for college over enterprise

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, July 19, 2018

STAFF and students from Dudley College of Technology's Peter Jones Enterprise Academy are celebrating a triple victory.

They have been awarded the titles of National Entrepreneur of the Year, Inspirational Student of the Year and Enterprise Manager of the Year at the national EntFest. That's the Peter Jones Foundation's enterprise festival which the business mogul from TV's Dragon's Den hosted at Buckingham University.

Level 3 BTEC in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship student Santis Rolmanis took the top award of National Entrepreneur of the Year for his innovative business idea which centres on a virtual reality immersive environment that allows participants to simulate a job interview. His product named Confidence VR is already operational and is available as a downloadable application.

Warren Edwards was acknowledged for his contribution when he was awarded the prize for Inspirational Student of the Year. Warren is a wheel chair user who has shown great motivation in pursuing his studies.

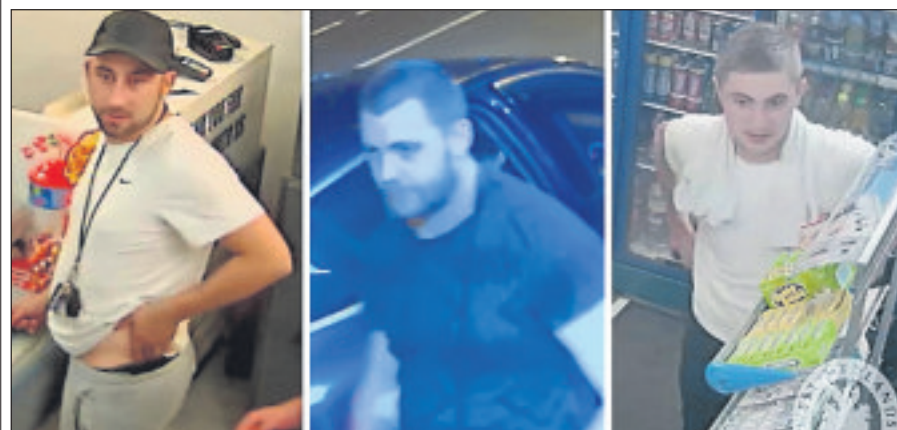
Alongside her students Victoria Greaves, Dudley College's Peter Jones Academy Manager, beat fierce competition to be named Enterprise Manager of the Year as an acknowledgment of her excellent leadership.

## German band to rock the Robin in December

GERMAN rock band The New Roses will play the Robin 2 in Bilston as part of a five date UK tour on December 2. Their song Without A Trace was featured on the soundtrack of cult TV series Sons of Anarchy and last year they released third album One More for the Road. British rockers Departed will support the group from Wiesbaden at the Mount Pleasant venue.

# More Poundworld stores to close as job losses reach 1,300

## Hit and run robbers target dog walker



Seen in a shop just before street robbery – do you recognise these men? If so, police would like to hear from you on 101

POLICE are urgently appealing for information after a man and his pet dog were run over in a vicious robbery in Cradley Heath.

The 28-year-old and his Staffordshire bull terrier were walking along Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath at 3am on Saturday, July 7 when a blue Mondeo drove into them at speed.

The force of the impact was so great the victim was knocked through a shop window and as he lay injured,

the driver and passengers snatched his neck chains and bracelet.

Detective Sergeant Martin Richardson, leading the investigation, said: "The Staffie and his owner were lucky to escape serious injury or even death at the hands of these reckless individuals. Thankfully they are both recovering at home."

The investigation team has been working gathering CCTV, forensic evidence and conducting vehicle checks.

They have now launched a public appeal for information and have released images of three suspects who were spotted in a nearby shop shortly before the robbery.

Det Sgt Richardson added: "The fact that someone was willing to gamble with the victim and his pet dog's life in order to steal a very small amount of jewellery is utterly shocking."

Anyone with information should call 101 quoting 20SW/152098L/18.

POUNDWORLD stores at the Merry Hill shopping centre and Bloxwich are the among 80 stores to close nationwide with the loss of more than 1,000 jobs, administrators have revealed.

Attempts to rescue the collapsed company have so far failed and today's move follows the announcement of 25 store closures earlier this week.

Around 15 workers at the Merry Hill shop and 13 more at the Bloxwich High Street branch face losing their jobs by the end of this month.

Deloitte, the accountancy firm handling the administration process since Poundworld went bust, says the latest 80 stores will be closed between Friday, July 20, and Sunday July 22.

It will leave 230 stores open. That includes its seven remaining stores in the Black Country and southern Staffordshire, including two shops in Wolverhampton – in the Mander Centre and on Birmingham Road – as well as branches on the Reedswood Retail Park in Walsall, New Square in West Bromwich, the Queen's Retail Park in Stafford, Victoria Shopping Park in Hednesford and at the Three Spires in Lichfield.

### Redundancies

The 1,024 redundancies will bring the total jobs toll so far to 1,366, including 100 at the head office and 240 from the first set of store closures.

Joint administrator Clare Boardman said: "Whilst we remain hopeful that a sale for part, or parts, of the business can still happen, it has not been possible to sell the business as a whole."

"We would like to thank all the employees for their continued support and commitment during this difficult time. We are keeping staff apprised of developments as they happen."

## Wolves set out new ticket prices

WOLVES have revealed their match-day prices for their Premier League season – and are offering hundreds of free tickets to young fans at every home game.

In another positive move for fans, the Graham Hughes Stand will offer adult tickets cheaper than last season's Championship prices. However, fans in the Billy Wright Upper tier face a £10 increase for big matches.

The club has secured 5,000 Premier League match tickets, spread out across the season, which will be free to junior members. At each game, 260 free tickets will be available to Young Wolves and Wolf Pack members, on a first come first served basis.

Fans in the South and North Banks face a £5 rise to £30 per match for Category A games against Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Man City, Manchester United and Spurs. Category B go up by £2 to £27.

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## Exhibition looks at Langley landmarks

AN exhibition celebrating the unique heritage and culture of Langley goes on display at Langley Library from this weekend.

The project brings together history, poetry, photography and animation to celebrate Langley. Created and delivered by the Friends of Langley Library group, the 'Within Walking Distance' exhibition focuses on 24 nearby landmarks.

A special map has been designed illustrating all 24 of the landmarks which will be available free from the library. The display will be opened by the Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Joy Edis on Saturday at 2pm.

## Returns trial for plastic bottles

SUPERMARKET chain Morrisons is trialling vending machines for the return of single-use plastic bottles to reduce their environmental impact.

The two reverse vending machines will be installed at stores in Skipton, North Yorkshire, and Lindsayfield, Scotland, for six months and will allow customers to deposit bottles in return for points coupons or a charity donation. The machines accept all plastic bottles that have a barcode and Morrisons own-brand. Customers can return a maximum of 20 bottles a day.

The scheme follows a number of moves by Morrisons to reduce customers' use of plastic.

## City pub is all set for displays

A BIRMINGHAM city centre pub is holding an art exhibition. The Core Collective is running in The Gunmakers Arms in Bath Street and Two Towers Brewery from August 5.

It will feature sculptures, textile art, photographs, digital art, mixed media pieces and portraits. The brewery is also presenting an event celebrating the 100 years of the suffragettes and Nicola Gauld from Community Engagement Outreach will be telling their story on August 12 from 4pm.

## Open day invitation to visit pet hospital

ANIMAL lovers and budding vets are being invited to a fun-filled open day at a Black Country pet hospital.

The Oldbury PDSA Pet Hospital will throw open its doors on Wednesday, July 25, between 10am and 2pm.

Visitors will have the chance to go behind the scenes of the busy hospital in St Matthews Road, to see where life-saving pet operations are carried out.

# Centre combines shopping and gaming

SHOPPING centre owner Intu has tried out new technology that lets people compete in giant video games whilst they shop at the Merry Hill centre

The Intu Accelerate programme was launched earlier this month and as part of it start-up business Rhythm is working with the shopping centre group to test how massive gaming experiences could drive up shopper

numbers, attract younger customers and benefit retailers.

Its product, called Piing, creates multi-player games for big screens that up to 200 people can take part in at a time using their mobile phones as controllers. Hundreds of shoppers tried the technology and took part in a series of games that included a dune buggy race, tennis and a general knowledge quiz.

Six more initiatives are currently being trialled by Intu in partnership with start-up businesses as part of the firm's drive to introduce more technological innovations.

Intu chief executive David Fischel said: "We're continuing to explore how technology could offer Intu customers an even better experience and create new opportunities for our retailers to thrive."

"Intu Accelerate is empowering our business to find more ways to innovate the retail industry in partnership with some of the smartest start-up companies out there."

"Hundreds of shoppers can take part in any one of these games at a time and this created a real sense of excitement among shoppers when we trialled the technology at Intu Merry Hill."

# Police forced to ditch hard-to-solve cases

**POLICE are ditching criminal investigations they believe they have little chance of solving due to the strain on force resources.**

West Midlands Police chief constable Dave Thompson said the volume and complex nature of crimes dealt with by the force meant that 'challenging discussions' were taking place over which investigations are pursued.

He said crimes including theft from vehicles, criminal damage and public order offences may not get past the first stage of investigation.

Mr Thompson explained: "We have to make difficult decisions over which crimes will result in us catching anybody."

## Shoplifting

Last year it emerged that the Metropolitan Police had curtailed investigations into shoplifting up to a certain value in a bid to save cash. Mr Thompson said that WMP would not be following a similar path. However, he said a squeeze on resources meant the force was having to look carefully at which crimes it investigates.

"Every crime that is reported to us will have an initial investigation to see if there is anything there," he said. "The decision we then have to make is does it move into secondary investigation because there is potential lines of inquiry. This is involving some challenging discussions. There is not a crime type we are saying we don't investigate anymore, but actually we are having to make a decision which says, 'is this likely to result in us catching anybody?' This is more likely to happen in the volume crime areas, thefts from vehicles, criminal damage, some of the public order cases."

The number of officers on the force has fallen from 8,626 to 6,758 over the last seven years.

## Landmark tank gets new lean green look



The famous Delph tank in Brierley Hill has been given a new lean, green, fighting machine paint job. The Chieftain tank has been sitting at the entrance to the Delph Industrial Estate, near Merry Hill, for decades.

Painter Steve Whitehouse said it has taken up to five coats of paint but is 'something different than painting somebody's living room.' It has been given a lighter look than its original dark green.

# Brum calls for common policy on taxi licences

COUNCIL bosses in Birmingham want to establish a 'common set of standards' for issuing taxi licences across the West Midlands - which would also apply to rebel local authority Wolverhampton.

The public are being put in 'danger' by current legislation, which allows private hire operators to obtain a licence in one area and work in another, warned councillor Ian Ward, leader of Birmingham City Council (BCC).

Council officers have no enforcement powers over drivers licensed elsewhere. Councillor Ward revealed he had held a meeting between Labour council leaders in the West Midlands with a view to establishing consistency across the region for issuing licences.

It is understood the talks have also included bosses at Wolverhampton council, which has been widely criticised for its licensing process. It is quicker and cheaper to obtain a licence at the authority while there is dispute as to whether their examination is easier and less demanding.

Councillors and officials at Birmingham have not publicly pointed the finger at Wolverhampton.

But tellingly, the authority was omitted when councillor Barbara Dring, chairman of licensing and public protection (BCC), wrote to the Minister for Transport about the issue in October on behalf of Birmingham, Coventry, Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall councils. Councillor Dring said: "It is not appropriate to comment on the standards applied by other local authorities but we take this very seriously in Birmingham."

## Monte Carlo to the Black Country

NEVER mind Monte Carlo or Bust! It's Dudley Castle or Bust for this stunning Daimler Dart and 90 other classic cars getting ready to rev into town for the 30th West Midlands Classic Car Club show on Sunday.

Maurice Cole's 1961 Daimler Dart is one of the highlights of the show. During the 1980s the car was driven around the streets of the French Riviera for the prestigious Monte Carlo Rally. Mr Cole, from Dudley, will be driving it up Castle Hill to the castle and zoo for the show, which starts at 10am. Zoo admission applies.

Mr Cole, from Dudley, will proudly parade the Dart, otherwise known as the SP250, alongside up to 90 other classic and rare cars. Mr Cole, 81, has organised the event since its beginning.

## Brave Sharon dances with Grannies at carnival



Bilston's Sharon Murray performed with the Dancing Grannies in a dance routine at Stourbridge Carnival

A YEAR ago, Sharon Murray was given two months to live. But she has defied the odds and has fulfilled her dream to perform with the Black Country's Dancing Grannies.

Sharon, from Bilston, has cancer and is making her way through a fundraising bucket list and was also able to tick off another major item by meeting one of her sporting heroes, Steve Bull.

The 48-year-old stepped out with the Grannies, aka The Fiz-zogs, at Stourbridge Carnival and then teamed up with Bull on a trip to Wolves' home ground Molineux.

"I was very nervous performing with the Grannies," she said. "They were so kind to me. I don't know how many people were there, I was too scared to look."

Sharon is determined to tick off many items as possible. "I haven't got time to die," she said. "I've got too many things to do. My bucket list is very long but I can dream, can't I? I'm raising money for local charities by doing them."

Sharon raised £200 from her two-minute dance for her fund, currently standing at £1,200.

# Dramatic new TV role for Sir, now Doctor, Lenny

SIR Lenny Henry and Agent Carter star Hayley Atwell will both appear in a new TV adaptation of best-selling novel The Long Song, the BBC has announced.

The three-part series, based on Andrea Levy's book, will also star Undercover's Tamara Lawrance and Dunkirk's Jack Lowden.

Set during the final days of slavery in 19th century Jamaica, the story follows the strong-willed July, played by Lawrance.

Atwell plays the plantation owner while Lowden appears as the new overseer determined to improve the plantation for slaves and mistress alike.

Dudley-born actor and comedian Sir Lenny will play Godfrey in the BBC One series, which has been adapted by Sarah Williams from Levy's book, and will



Sir Lenny with his PhD

be directed by Mahalia Belo, the BAFTA winning director of C4's Ellen and director of the recent Wales-set chiller Requiem.

The BBC will be airing a tribute programme to mark the Dudley-born comedian and actor's 60th birthday next month.

It will include classic clips from his career plus new

items, including Sir Lenny's transformation into soul hero Stevie Wonder.

Sir Lenny, who turns 60 on August 29, said the broadcast is 'a great honour' and he is 'very chuffed' to have his comedy work celebrated.

## PhD

Meanwhile, Sir Lenny is now also Doctor Lenny after being awarded a PhD in media arts from the Royal Holloway, University of London, after four years of studying.

Having previously achieved an MA in screenwriting from Royal Holloway, Lenny decided to pursue a PhD, which involved writing of an original screenplay and a critical analysis of black and ethnic minority characters



# Rejections hurt but Angela would not quit

**BRIERLEY Hill** author Angela Marsons has achieved close to three million sales and been translated into 26 languages around the globe.

But she says she still has to 'pinch herself' every time she receives a royalty payment.

Becoming a successful novelist has been a 'rollercoaster ride' for the 50-year-old former Merry Hill shopping centre security guard.

She was left fearing she would never see her writing in print after parting ways from a top London literary agency and suffering a string of rejections from publishers.

The feedback from traditional publishers on her crime thriller series, which features no-nonsense Detective Kim Stone, was always the same: 'we love it...but not enough'. Some worried about the Black Country setting, others were concerned that readers wouldn't warm to her formidable lead character.

## Publishing

But in October 2014, Angela received an email which was to make her dreams come true. A reader she had worked with at the literary agency, Keshini Naidoo, was now a commissioning editor at a digital publisher, Bookouture – and was interested in publishing Angela's work.

"It was a lifeline for me – I didn't have any expectations about what I'd sell, I thought maybe a couple of hundred copies, but I just wanted to see what readers thought. I wanted them to enjoy it," says Angela.

Her debut novel Silent Scream, set in Rowley Regis, has gone on to sell more than a million copies and was the number one Amazon bestseller in the UK for over a month. It also reached



Angela Marsons, aged 50, from Brierley Hill, with one of her best sellers the top five in the US and has secured rights deals in more than 25 countries.

Her follow-up novels – Evil Games, Lost Girls, Play Dead, Blood Lines, Dead Souls, Broken Bones and Dying Truth – have all hit the Amazon top 10, with many of them shooting straight to the Amazon No.1 spot on pre-orders alone.

Total sales for her detective series are now close to three million, but it's the feedback from readers that Angela has found most rewarding – with more than 13,500 five-star reviews to date.

"After the feedback that I'd had from traditional publishers, I was worried whether readers would be put off by the setting of my books – but I get emails every single day from readers all around the world telling me that they love Kim Stone and can't wait for more.

"It's so exciting to have that kind of feedback – I've been in tears more

than once at the messages that I've received."

Angela says she struggles to get her head around the fact that she has become an international best seller almost overnight.

"The dream for me was always to write for a living, and I just feel so privileged that I can do that now. Every time I get a royalty payment, I have to pinch myself. Never could I have imagined selling three million books. I am so lucky to work with such a talented team of people at Bookouture.

"Not only did they make all my dreams come true, they made new dreams and aspirations and then propelled me towards them, demonstrating a faith in me that I could only ever dream of.

"The last two years have been a journey of awe and discovery which continues to excite me every day."

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# Take a step back and enjoy time in the shade

WHILE the mercury stays high, a shady spot in your outdoor space provides a welcoming retreat, whether under a canopy of trees or a pergola adorned with climbers, writes Hannah Stephenson.

Even just a bench sheltered from the sun by colourful blooms, can provide a comfortable and pretty shaded stop.

While your summer bedding continues to bloom during the heatwave, lush, deep green foliage plants and other cooling specimens will be thriving in the shade.

Here, Mark Sage, head of horticulture at Wyevale Garden Centres, offers some top tips for planting in the shade...

## CHANGE EXPECTATIONS

Shade can come from buildings, trees, fences and dominant evergreen plants. Change your expectations of shady planting and think about foliage, form, texture, muted colours and bold drifts.

Many plants do well in shade, as the soil in shady areas can retain moisture and provide ideal growing conditions. One of the joys of planting in the shade is luscious foliage. Rich foliage can be enhanced by adding splashes of colour, with shade-tolerant Busy Lizzies, stocks, violas and nicotiana.

## MANAGE DRY SHADE

Dry shade can be a challenge, but it's not an impossible growing condition for plants. The main problem is the lack of light and moisture.

Dry shade can often be found near trees, as their roots take moisture from the soil, as well as at the foot of walls or directly under roofs.

For plants to thrive in dry shade, add as much organic material to the area as possible, such as homemade leaf mould, compost or soil conditioner. This will help retain moisture and improve the soil condition.

## USE THE RIGHT FERTILISERS

Using a fertiliser will help add nutrients directly to the soil in a form that plant roots can absorb quickly. Don't use high nitrogen fertilisers, as you want to promote shade-tolerant plant growth and these fertilisers rely on sunlight. Instead, use sulphate of potash, which has a very high potassium content, or wood ash from a bonfire.

## FIND OUT THE pH

Use a soil testing kit to check the acidity or alkalinity of your soil because, in particular acid or alkaline soils, plants may not be able to use all the available nutrients and minerals while in others, the nutrients may have been removed. It will also help you choose the right plants for the soil. Plants which are unfussy about the soil include fatsias, astilbes, astrantia and many ferns. Acid-loving plants can

do well in shade include rhododendrons, azaleas and hydrangea

## ALLOW ROOTS SOME SPACE

When you're planting in the shade, you need to ensure the roots of the new plants go down into cool, moist soil. Fork the base of each planting hole. Even if your plants are tolerant to dry shade, you still need to water them. Give them a good soak before and after you've planted them and keep watering them for the first year until they're established.

When you've planted, mulch the area with a layer of homemade leaf mould or rotted garden compost to retain moisture, prevent weeds, and protect the roots when it's cold.

## USE WATER TO CHILL OUT

If you have a pond, it shouldn't be completely in the shade as it will just go stagnant, but subtle green marginal planting with touches of colour from plants such as astilbes and irises will give the area a cool, calming aura.

Good plants around ponds in partial shade include Water horsetail (Equisetum fluviatile), dogwood (Cornus alba), Siberian iris "Caesar's Brother" (Iris sibirica), water forget-me-not (Myosotis scorpioides) and yellow iris (Iris pseudacorus).

## USE CLIMBERS TO CREATE SHADE

If you have a structure such as arch or pergola, grow climbers over it in the sun, which will provide you with shade underneath. Climbers which grow over a freestanding structure in the sun often do better than when planted against a wall or fence because there is no restriction of light.



# Reinstating wind farm subsidies 'would cut bills'

A GREEN energy expert has called on the Government to reinstate onshore wind subsidies which would help cut energy bills.

Ron Fox was commenting after a new study recently showed that building more onshore wind farms could save householders £1.6 billion on the cost of their electricity.

A total of 7,000 onshore wind turbines generating up to 12 gigawatts of power have been built in the UK.

They are commercially viable thanks to subsidies paid on energy bills. But since this benefit was stopped three years ago development has ground to a halt even though an estimated 1,800 turbines, which could produce an extra four gigawatts of power, have been given planning go-ahead.

"It is incredible that nothing has been done about this since 2015," said Mr Fox, of Noreus Ltd on the University of Keele Science and Innovation Park. "Yet here is a golden opportunity to cut our carbon footprint at the same time as giving residents cheaper energy bills."

Now businesses are lobbying Parliament to revive the sector as they believe that the



Building more onshore wind farms could cut householders' energy bills, it has been claimed

potential savings were "staggering" according to Lindsay McQuade, chief executive of Scottish Power Renewables, one of the companies that commissioned the report by BVG Associates.

They want ministers to resume offering contracts guaranteeing a price for the electricity they generate, similar to those

offered to offshore wind farms and nuclear plants such as Hinkley Point C. This usually is a figure above the market price and it relies on consumers paying "top-up" subsidies.

The BVG study suggests that from 2023 wholesale market prices would be higher than those needed by onshore wind farms,

so that they can pay back the extra they received to consumers, which over 15 years would be more than £1.6 billion.

It added that if the onshore wind farms were offered contracts next year they would need £45.60 per megawatt hour compared with the £92.50 per megawatt hour offered to Hinkley Point C nuclear plant.

But some critics say this is an unfair comparison as nuclear power can be generated round the clock while wind farms are dependent on the weather.

One unexpected benefit from offshore wind farms, as opposed to onshore wind farms, is that the latest two-year study backed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has shown that seagulls were observed changing their flight path to avoid the turbines.

The project, commissioned by 11 offshore wind developers, looked at more than 600,000 videos which recorded only six collisions with birds, far fewer than scientists previously thought.

But ornithologists have called for more research in more locations onshore and offshore closer to seabird colonies.

# Summer holidays will fly by outside in the garden

Report by Hannah Stephenson

THE thoughts of school holidays fill some parents with dread.

But if you can get your kids engaged in gardening – or at least off their screens and into the fresh air – the weeks will fly by.

Award-winning garden designer and mother-of-two Ann-Marie Powell – who designed the BBC Countryfile's 30th anniversary garden at this year's RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show – says wildlife and growing-your-own could be just the magnet you need to lure youngsters outside.

Here, she shares eight ways to get your kids into the garden this summer...

## CREATE A VEG PATCH NEAR PLAY EQUIPMENT

"We have a little veg plot at the end of our garden where all the herbs are, and I always grow food particularly for them to scrump," says Powell. "The plot is close to their trampoline, so they go down there and I'll say, 'Boys, while you're down there can you get me some basil', or, 'Pick me some peas', or whatever is in season."

"Now they know all of the herbs and veg and they notice wildlife like ladybirds."

## KEEP BINOCULARS HANDY

Powell says: "We have some binoculars in our living room, as luckily we are surrounded by trees. They love looking through the binoculars to see what they can see."

## AMUSE THEM WITH APPS

If they really can't be separated from their phones, load some apps to your advantage. "They have this app where you record the birdsong and the app will identify the bird (warblr.co.uk and ChirpOMatic.com are popular choices)," says Powell. "When we get back, we can then look the birds up in a book."

"If you talk to them about wildlife, they'll want to know all about it."

If they're really keen to know the name of a plant or flower, there are various plant identification apps which will do the job, including FlowerChecker (flowerchecker.com) and PlantSnap (plantsnap.com), where you take a photo of the plant and the app will endeavour to identify it.

## GO ON FAMILY WALKS

"I have two children, Archie, 14, and Gilbert, nine, and like all children these days, they are addicted to the internet," says Powell. "So every Sunday we go for a family walk, which we've done for years, and look at the landscape. It's fantastic family time and it means they're experiencing a little bit of the great outdoors. They almost always moan about it but as soon as we get out there, they are changed children. And we talk."

## VISIT NATURE RESERVES

Powell says: "Since the boys were little, we have been to nature reserves. Straight away, their shoes were off, they were walking through the streams, swinging in the trees – they always have great fun."



Building a den is a great exercise for children and creates a place for them to use their imagination



Deep concentration from this young girl sowing seeds

## CREATE A WILDLIFE HAVEN

"We have lots of plants for pollinators in our garden and you'll find a massive list from the RHS (rhs.org.uk), from echinaceas to rose," says Powell. "They attract insects, which create interest for children in the garden."

## ENCOURAGE THEM TO GROW THINGS

"Try sowing seeds," says Powell. "My kids like sowing big seeds, slightly weird-looking, and they want to know what the plants are going to be like and what they will produce. Peas and beans are so easy and they

grow really quickly, and sunflowers are brilliant – the bigger, the better."

## ENCOURAGE INSECTS INTO THE GARDEN

"We often see staghorn beetles on our walks, and the bigger the better. Kids are interested in bugs, but we are seeing less of them, which is why we need to plant pollinating plants," says Powell.

"When I've cut back long grasses, they've made hollow stems – so we've put the stems together, bunched them up and put them in trees to make bug houses."



Children learn about herbs and wildlife in a vegetable patch

## GIVE THEM SPACE FOR A DEN

"Kids love to be able to call a space their own, where they can use their imagination. Dens are brilliant and they can make a right old mess out of old bamboo sticks or cut-off branches."

"You could even plant bamboo plants and bend over the stems. They'll make it into an absolute horror but it's theirs, they need to own it," Powell adds. "Put the idea in their head by, say, reading them a book at bedtime about dens and suggest they could do that in the garden."



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# Have Faith! It's the First Lady of R'n'B

**A**merican singer Faith Evans will return to the UK to headline a major tour. The Grammy-winning star has been in the public eye for more than 25 years and has enjoyed a successful career as a singer and actress.

She'll play songs from her hit 2017 album *The King & I*, recorded with her late husband, The Notorious B.I.G., when she takes to the stage at Birmingham's O2 Institute on Saturday.

The record was released to mark the 20th Anniversary of the passing of the Notorious B.I.G.

The death of her husband has left a void. "There is still no closure for us, but we just got tired of fighting what seemed to be a never-ending battle. It's not any easier for us today 20 years later than it was for us at seven or eight years."

"The funny thing is I didn't plan for our album to drop last year, it was supposed to drop the year before. But to me it's the little things that let me know that Big approves the album because there were lots of little ways that I felt he was a part of the process."

Faith is already working on a biopic based on her 2009 memoir, *Keep the Faith*, which chronicles her life and career, including her marriage to Biggie and his much-publicized infidelity.

Despite the drama that transpired between Faith, Lil' Kim and other women involved with Biggie in the autobiography, the songstress makes it clear it won't be heavily played onscreen.

"I'm the executive producer on it, and I'm working closely with the screenwriters. It's definitely not going to be something other than what I would want to see. I like to be very tactful – but honest."

Faith says *The King and I* was a cathartic project. "The title actually was divine inspiration. I didn't have a list of like, any thoughts of what the album title was going to be, but funny enough that's the first thing that just dropped in my lap before I recorded one song."

## COMFORTABLE

She was glad to make peace with Lil' Kim on there.

"Well I don't know . . . because like you said, I haven't had those feelings in a while. I can't speak for her whenever she felt like, "OK, it's time to kind of let it go," but thankfully she's in a different place. I really don't know when. I've seen her several times in passing throughout the years, but then when we were rehearsing for the *Bad Boy Tour* was probably the first time I actually had a full conversation with her since back when we actually hung out."

"You know, back in the day. That was – I won't say different because it's not like I don't know who Kim is – but it was different just to feel comfortable. I felt like she understood where I was coming from; it was a feeling. She actually was receptive and as soon as I asked her about being on the album, she's like, "Of course!" So I don't think that was the defining moment of a hatchet being buried or anything. In previous times, it was never like she didn't say hello back if I said hi. I always said hi if I saw her, but [the *Bad Boy Tour*] was certainly a forum where we got to see each other a little more often. Doing shows every day, I would stop in her dressing room and

Still missing you – Faith still thinks of ex-hubbe, Notorious B.I.G



play with her baby and stuff like that. The tour certainly was a catalyst for the recovery of our relationship, I would say."

Faith thinks about her whirlwind relationship with Biggie on a daily basis. Her memories are ever-present and she reflects constantly on the impact he had on her life.

"I can't say I think about it like, 'What if we didn't get married?' but I can't say that I've never reflected on it like, 'Yeah, we did move really fast'. We're doing a documentary with A&E Films about Big, and I just recently saw the rough cut and there were some clips of interview pieces of him that I had never heard. He was like, 'You know, maybe she won't admit it but I'll admit it. We were moving too fast and everything, but we was in love!' So obviously what he was saying was probably in response to someone asking him about how fast, but we fell in love! We did, and knowing that things would definitely not be the same in so many ways, I'm glad that I was already prepared to kind of look at the bigger picture in many ways with things."

Faith wasn't actually a huge fan of Biggie's before they got married. "I wasn't familiar with his music prior to when we met. He probably had *Party & Bull-t* and maybe the *Mary* song that he was on *Real Love*, but I

*I was a church girl.  
It's not that I didn't  
listen to secular  
music, but I wasn't  
hip-hop savvy*

didn't really know who he was. I was a church girl. It's not that I didn't listen to secular music, but I wasn't the most hip-hop savvy. But Puff had a Father's Day party which was the first night he ended up going home with me and we made love and all that. But when I saw him on stage, I was just blown away. I'm just in the audience like, 'Oh, he's performing?' because he'd just kept asking me was I coming to this party and I saw him on stage. I didn't know any of the songs either, but I just was looking at him and just how he had the crowd and how he didn't have to do that much because he just had a certain confidence and swagger. I was like, 'wow'. Then after the show, everybody was just clamoring around him and they was like, 'Where you going?' and he was like, 'I'm going with her'. I was like, 'Oh, OK! Come on, daddy!'"

Andy Richardson

● For more entertainment news and reviews see *The Ticket* in your Express & Star every Friday.



Ocean Colour Scene



## OCS and Kaiser Chiefs have days at the races

Two of the nation's favourite rock bands will be bringing the long hot summer to a rousing finale at Wolverhampton Racecourse on August 31 and September 1 – and both events follow a day at the races.

Britpop outfit Ocean Colour Scene, from Birmingham, will perform at the racecourse on the Friday. The group had five top 10 albums including a number one in 1997, 'Marchin' Already'. Hit singles include 'The Day We Caught The Train' and 'The Riverboat Song'. At one stage, they were Britain's second biggest-selling band, beaten only by their mates, Oasis, and 1996 triple platinum album 'Moseley Shoals' remains the go-to record for fans of Britpop.

Singer Simon Fowler went from being a newspaper reporter to fronting the biggest thing since Oasis, an overnight success after seven years. Midlands gigs always have a special resonance for OCS and they'll make everyone a winner after this day at the races.

The following evening Leeds rockers The Kaiser Chiefs, featuring hyperactive frontman Ricky Wilson, will mark the highlight of the Ladies Day meeting at the Dunstall Park track. The Brit Award-winning quartet are best known for hit songs such as 'Ruby', 'I Predict A Riot', 'Everyday I Love You Less and Less', and 'Ricky' made a lot of new fans during his spell as a judge on the BBC TV version of 'The Voice'.

For more information see [www.wolverhampton-racecourse.co.uk](http://www.wolverhampton-racecourse.co.uk) website.

## Band didn't come home too soon



**THEIR** break – all 13 years of it – lasted longer than the lifespan of most rock bands.

And yet when Scottish rockers Del Amitri returned in 2014, their audience were still waiting.

Having formed in Glasgow in 1983 and released four top 10 albums, Del Amitri are planning a series of summer headline shows, including a night at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Monday.

Frontman Justin Currie, pictured, is pleased that fans have stuck around to listen to such hits as 'Nothing Ever Happens', 'Kiss This Thing Goodbye' and 'Always The

Last To Know, as well as 'Roll to Me' and 'Don't Come Home Too Soon'.

He spent much of the band's 13-year hiatus working on solo work but was please to reform the band.

"After we reformed for a few weeks of gigs in 2014 we enjoyed the experience so much that we thought we'd do it again someday."

"An offer to do Edinburgh Castle came in, and having made such an arse of it in the nineties we thought it might be good to try and make amends. Four years felt like a decent enough period of time to stay out of people's faces. So we're just doing a week of shows, finishing at Glasgow Barrowlands

Ballroom, a venue we've been desperate to get back to for 17 years."

Fans can expect the hits when Del Amitri take to the stage in Birmingham. They avoided playing new material in 2014, so as to give punters a comprehensive review of their output between 1985 and 2002.

"We feared the whole audience might sod off to the bogs as soon as we played something unfamiliar. This time we have given ourselves a little more leeway so we'll try some new things and see if we can make them fit."

## Goldfrapp and more on the farm

A festival in rural Herefordshire will celebrate its 20th anniversary this weekend. Nozstock, on a working farm at Bromyard, will feature Chase and Status + Rage, Goldfrapp (Alison Goldfrapp pictured), The Selecter, We Are Scientists, The Blockheads, Dub Pistols, Honeyfeet, Electric Swing Circus, Sponge, The Lovely Eggs, plus DJ sets from Grandmaster Flash, Chali 2na and Krafty Kuts. It's on Friday to Sunday, for details see [www.nozstock.com](http://www.nozstock.com).



## Y Not head to Peak District for tasty festival

The summer of festivals continues on Thursday (July 26) when The Libertines, Catfish and the Bottlemen, Jamiroquai, Manic Street Preachers, Kaiser Chiefs and The Wombats line up at Y Not? Festival. The event runs until July 29 at Pikehall, Derbyshire, and also features Seasick Steve, The Levellers, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club, Razorlight, Circa Waves and The Amazons. There will also be sets from Fat White Family, Buzzcocks, The Sherlocks, Tom Grennan, Peace, Moose Blood and Reverend and the Makers. Also on the bill are Shame, Fickle Friends, Marika Hackman, Mallory Knox, Lucy Spraggan, Tom Walker, Pale Waves, Coasts, Blaenavon, Lady Leshurr, Ibibio Sound Machine, Nadia Rose, Spector and Superfood. The event offers great music and food in the beautiful Peak District. See [ynotfestival.com](http://ynotfestival.com) for details.

# 15 Years and Celebrating

### Commercial feature

**THE Bangla Lounge restaurant is in the heart of Halesowen town centre opposite the church.**

The restaurant has been serving quality pan Asian food for the last 15 years.

Originally set up in 2003 by Bari's family the business has gone from strength to strength and this year are celebrating their 15th year anniversary.

As a thank you to all their loyal customers for all their support over the years they are offering 15% discount every Friday & Saturday up to the 11th August and this is both eat in or take away.

### Atmosphere and decor

As you enter you are welcomed by magnificent setting and a delightful marriage of classic and luxurious modern – a wonderful comfortable experience.

### The menu dishes

The menu offers a wide variety of mouth-watering dishes from red hot Goa to cool Kashmir. On the new 2018 menu, new dishes include South Indian garlic lamb or chicken, Dhabba Murgh, as well as exclusive house specials Tamarind king prawns, chicken makhani and home-made lamb dish. There are plenty of dishes for vegetarians and fish lovers including vegetable jhall, Roson Ki salmon, also any main dish from the menu using Quorn pieces.



Owner and manager Bari Azad is ready to welcome you

### The ingredients

All food is made freshly cooked on order and the dishes have the warmth of homemade Indian cooking. The chefs take great care in selecting the best quality ingredients. The restaurant also offers a large selection of wines and beer from around the world.

### Healthy eating

At Bangla Lounge, healthy eating is high on the agenda if you prefer to have low calorie version of your favourite dishes prepared, they are able to

specially prepare most dishes using less oil, no butter or ghee-less food colouring resulting in lighter meals.

If you are planning a celebration, the restaurant's upstairs function room can cater for up to 40 guests is ideal for work parties birthday celebrations anniversaries. Takeaways are available and home delivery service for free within a three-mile radius.

To book a table call 01215857020 or email: [info@banglaloungehalesowen.co.uk](mailto:info@banglaloungehalesowen.co.uk) The restaurant can be found at 67-69 High Street, Halesowen, B63 3BQ.

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CHOICE



Katie Derham

**Proms Extra (BBC2, 6.50pm)**  
New series. Katie Derham presents the weekly magazine show on which she joined by leading stars of the classical world for conversation about all that the Proms season has to offer. In the spotlight for the first 2018 edition are Five Telegrams from the First Night of the Proms, the Young Musicians Prom and multi-instrumentalist Jacob Collier, while David Owen Norris returns with Chord of the Week.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nadiya's Family Favourites. (R) **12.00** Athletics: Monaco Diamond League Highlights. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Athletics: Anniversary Games. Gabby Logan presents coverage from London Stadium. **4.00** Athletics: World Cup. **5.05** Wedding Day Winners. **6.05** **BBC News.**  
**6.15** **Regional Programme.**  
**6.20** **Film: Wreck-It Ralph.** (2012) A video game villain grows tired of always being the bad guy, and ventures into other games in search of the chance to be a hero, unwittingly causing chaos in the process. When a deadly threat to the entire arcade appears, it falls to him to set things right. Animated adventure, with the voices of John C Reilly, Sarah Silverman and Jane Lynch.  
**7.55** **Pointless Celebrities.** Richard Madeley and his daughter Chloe, JLS star JB and his wife Chloe, Fern Britton and her daughter Grace Jones, and B\*Witched twins Keavy and Edele Lynch take part in a families-themed edition of the unorthodox quiz show. (R)  
**8.40** **Casualty.** Bea tries to give Alicia the help she needs following the attack, while Eddie tries to rebuild their relationship – only to be told they are purely professional colleagues. Jacob lies to Sam and tells her that Blake knows about their relationship. Elsewhere, after overhearing Sam express her doubts that she will last another shift, Ruby attempts to build bridges with her colleagues and patients. A father and son are brought in with injuries they refuse to explain, raising suspicions of abuse – but it is not clear who is the abuser and who the victim.  
**9.30** **Mr Brown's Boys.** Agnes looks after a robotic baby that has been given to Dermot and Maria to help them prepare for their new arrival, and Cathy develops a crush on her psychology lecturer. (R)  
**10.00** **BBC News:** Weather: National Lottery Update.  
**10.20** **Film: Pretty Woman.** (1990) A millionaire businessman hires a prostitute for a week, and falls in love with her despite their many differences. Romantic comedy, starring Julia Roberts.  
**12.15** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.20** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.35** Marrying Mum and Dad. **7.00** Officially Amazing Goes Bunkers. **7.30** The Dengineers. (R) **8.00** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) **8.30** Deadly Dinosaurs with Steve Backshall. (R) **9.00** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **9.25** Animal Odd Couples. (R) **10.25** Coast. (R) **11.00** Second Chance Summer: Tuscany. (R) **12.00** Simply Nigella. (R) **12.30** Kew on a Plate. (R) **1.30** Garden Rescue. (R) **2.15** Wanted Down Under. (R) **3.00** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.00** Ben & James Versus the Arabian Desert. (R) **5.00** Flog It! (R) **5.50** Supercharged Otters: Natural World. (R)  
**6.50** **Proms Extra.** New series. Katie Derham presents the weekly magazine show on which she joined by leading stars of the classical world for conversation about all that the Proms season has to offer.  
**7.30** **Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring is alarmed to discover the extent of butcher Corporal Jones's cash-flow crisis and takes drastic measures to help him. Comedy from 1975, starring Clive Dunn. (R)  
**8.00** **Goit: The Open Championship Highlights.** Eilidh Barbour presents action from the third day of the prestigious event at Carnoustie Golf Links in Angus, Scotland, as the players aimed to move a step closer to glory. In the third round at Royal Birkdale last year, eventual champion Jordan Spieth strengthened his grip at the top of the leaderboard by shooting 65 to move three shots clear of his American compatriot Matt Kuchar. However, the day belonged to South African Branden Grace after he became the first man in history to card a 62 in a major championship. Grace holed eight birdies in a bogey-free third round to set the record. With commentary from Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter and Maureen Madill.  
**10.00** **QI** **XL.** Bill Bailey, Phill Jupitus and Claudia Winkleman join Alan Davies and host Sandi Toksvig for an extended edition of the unconventional quiz. (R)  
**10.45** **Touretteshero: Me, My Mouth and I.**  
**11.45** **Film: Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom.** (2013)  
**2.05** Picnic at Hanging Rock. (R) **3.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITY: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Employable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** NinjaGo: Possession. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **10.25** The Voice Kids. (R) **11.55** ITV News: Weather. **12.05** Midsomer Murders. (R) **2.00** Catchphrase. (R) **2.45** Tenable. (R) **3.45** Tipping Point. (R) **4.45** The Chase. (R) **5.45** ITV News: Weather.  
**6.05** **Regional Programme:** Weather.  
**6.15** **Film: Minions.** (2015) Premiere. A race of strange, babbling yellow creatures has served the cause of evil throughout the history of the world. In the 1960s, three of these eternal henchmen get a job working for a criminal genius who is hatching a plot against the British crown – but while carrying out her orders, they uncover a threat to their whole species. Animated comedy, with the voices of Sandra Bullock, Pierre Coffin, Jon Hamm and Michael Keaton.  
**8.00** **The Voice Kids Live Final.** After a week of competition, Emma Willis presents the talent contest's grand final, giving youngsters between the ages of seven and 14 the chance to achieve stardom. The Voice UK's Will.i.am, McFly's Danny Jones and pop star Pixie Lott occupy the famous spinning red chairs, but the decisions have now been taken out of the coaches' hands and now rest solely with the voting public. Last in the series.  
**9.35** **ITV News:** Weather.  
**9.55** **Film: The Bourne Ultimatum.** (2007) Amnesiac rogue assassin Jason Bourne's long-buried memories are reawakened by a British journalist researching the secret organisation that was responsible for transforming him into a killing machine. Meanwhile, a ruthless CIA director becomes convinced Bourne is still a security risk, and plans to dispose of him once and for all. Third instalment of the spy thriller series, directed by Paul Greengrass and starring Matt Damon.  
**11.55** **You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of viewers' videos. (R)  
**12.20** Jackpot247. **3.00** Mr Selfridge. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

**6.10** Cycling: Velotron Wales. **6.35** Motor Sport: Chateau Impney Hill Climb. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.20** The Simpsons. (R) **10.50** The Simpsons. (R) **11.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.20** Four in a Bed. (R) **12.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.20** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.50** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.55** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **3.55** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R) **5.00** Channel 4 News. **5.30** Formula 1 German Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.  
**7.05** **Inside Bentley: A Great British Motor Car.** Documentary going behind the scenes at the car company's plant in northwest England, as work commences on a new range of 4x4s. This is the first time cameras have had access to the plant, which is currently undergoing millions in new investment. The programme features the local people and master craftsmen working on the factory floor as well as visiting the world's most exclusive car showroom in Mayfair and the secretive department where customers can obtain the latest upgrades to their bespoke vehicle. (R)  
**8.00** **Great Canal Journeys: India.** Part two of two. Timothy West and Prunella Scales leave India's canals behind to explore the Brahmaputra river, a rarely navigated stretch of water with a remarkable history. They follow an old tea trading route, meet a community of monks and take a ride on an elephant. (R)  
**9.00** **Film: Kingsman: The Secret Service.** (2015) A streetwise teenager is taken under the wing of his dead father's old colleague, an agent working for a super-secret spy organisation. Will the youngster prove to be a chip off the old block by proving useful during a battle against a twisted, hi-tech genius? Action comedy based on a comic book, starring Colin Firth, Taron Egerton and Samuel L. Jackson.  
**11.35** **Film: The Visit.** (2015) Premiere. Horror, with Olivia DeJonge.  
**1.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.05** The Big Narstie Show. (R) **3.00** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.10** My Kitchen Rules. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.45** Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 3. (R) **11.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.10** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **2.10** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **3.10** Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords. (R) **4.10** Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords. (R) **5.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R)  
**6.05** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away Special.** In an episode full of surprises, agents Paul and Steve make a dangerous discovery leading to them calling the police. Elsewhere, Stewart and Elmore face a moral dilemma, and Paul and Steve hear a story that stops them in their tracks. (R)  
**7.00** **Blind Date.** Paul O'Grady hosts as feisty fashion student Mia chooses between blogger Howie, Georgie lad Declan and musician Elijah. Customer service adviser Stephen from Blackpool then makes his decision, choosing from bodybuilder Terri, teacher Julia and Marilyn Monroe impersonator Suzie. Plus, model Plum and dancer Jose return to the studio, reporting on their dates and revealing how they got on.  
**8.00** **Before They Were Stars.** A trek back through the TV archive to uncover embarrassing early brushes with fame endured by some of today's biggest stars. Among those skewered are pop stars, rock legends, silver-screen icons, celebrated comedians and sporting heroes.  
**8.55** **5 News Weekend.**  
**9.00** **Victoria Wood: Her Life As Seen on TV.** Profile of the writer and comedian, charting her career from her initial breakthrough singing comedy songs on 1970s talent show New Faces, through to her subsequent TV series and stand-up shows. Featuring clips of some of the funniest performances of her 40-year career and contributions from friends, fans and co-stars, including Richard E Grant, Duncan Preston, Kate Robbins and Barry Cryer. (R)  
**10.00** **Victoria Wood: Live 1997.** The comedian performs stand-up and sketches, recorded during Victoria's 1997 tour and acclaimed as one of the very best stand-up shows of the decade. (R)  
**12.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Mountain: Life at the Extreme **8.00** Wonders of the Monsoon **9.00** Hidden **10.00** Top of the Pops: 1986 **11.00** The Undiscovered Peter Cook **12.00** Smashing Hits! The 80's Pop Map of Britain & Ireland **1.00** Classic Soul at the BBC **2.00** Mountain: Life at the Extreme **3.00** Wonders of the Monsoon **4.00** Close  
**ITV2**  
**12.50** Catchphrase **1.30** You've Been Framed! **Gold 2.00** **Film:** You've Got Mail (1998) **3.10** **FYI Daily** **3.15** **Film:** You've Got Mail (1998) **4.25** **Film:** St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) **5.25** **FYI Daily** **5.30** **Film:** St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) **6.35** **Film:** The Mummy Returns (2001) **7.35** **FYI Daily** **7.40** **Film:** The Mummy Returns (2001) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **9.05** Keith Lemon: Coming in America **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.15** CelebAbility **1.55** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** **ITV2** Nightscreen  
**ITV3**  
**1.05** **ITV Racing:** Live from Newbury. Francesca Cumani presents coverage from Newbury, Market Rasen and Newmarket. **4.00** Rosemary & Thyme **5.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.00** Honest **2.00** **ITV3** Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping  
**ITV4**  
**12.40** Tour de France Live. **5.00** Storage Wars: Texas **6.00** Monster Carz **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** **Film:** The Living Daylights (1987) **9.05** **FYI Daily** **9.10** **Film:** The Living Daylights (1987) **10.45** Rugby World Cup Sevents Highlights **11.45** Better Late Than Never **12.40** Minder **1.45** The Motorbike Show **2.35** Sporting Funnies **2.45** **ITV4** Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**12.30** The Goldbergs **3.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **3.30** Young Sheldon **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones (2013) **11.35** Gogglebox **1.40** Tattoo Fixers **2.40** Rude Tube **3.35** Gogglebox **4.25** Rude(ish) Tube **4.50** How I Met Your Mother  
**Film4**  
**11.00** Napoleon Dynamite (2004) **1.00** The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie (2004) **2.45** The Indian in the Cupboard (1995) **4.35** Picture Perfect (1997) **6.40** Back to the Future Part III (1990) **9.00** Gladiator (2000) **12.00** The Mechanic (2011) **1.45** The Haunting in Connecticut (2009) **3.55** Close

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CHOICE



Nicola Walker

**Unforgotten (ITV, 9pm)**  
Cassie and Sunny go in search of Hayley's family as the press begin to take an interest in the story. A detective who was involved in the original investigation offers his thoughts on why her disappearance remained unsolved, pointing out that Hayley's boyfriend was suspected of the crime but was never charged. The distance between where Hayley was last seen and where her body was found leads Cassie to form a new theory - that the killer may have travelled up from London, then returned before they could be questioned.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News. Weather. **1.15** Garden Rescue. (R) **2.00** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** Lifeline. **3.55** Songs of Praise. **4.30** Animals Behaving Badly. (R) **5.30** Eat Well for Less? (R) **6.30** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. A special episode from Cumbria celebrates Countryfile's 30th anniversary, in which John Craven introduces a countdown of the show's 30 most memorable moments from the past three decades. Matt Baker meets a local fell walker, and Tom Heap investigates Countryfile's coverage of Foot and Mouth disease, and meets a local farmer to discover how he coped with the outbreak. Ellie Harrison meets some student wildlife film-makers, and Steve Brown meets boating enthusiasts in Ullswater engaged in a prestigious contest. **8.00** Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team value decorative objects and rarities, returning to Cardiff Castle. Silver specialist Gordon Foster is fascinated by an elaborately decorated Indian flask, while John Benjamin reveals what was thought to be costume jewellery is actually the real thing. Plus, Fiona goes on the hunt for a lost 1933 penny worth a small fortune now, and Roadshow veteran Henry Sandon gets his hands on a rare piece of porcelain. **9.00** Poldark. Ross grows furious at Adair's unwanted advances to Demelza and resorts to violence - a confrontation that results in his being formally challenged to a duel. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** Imagine - Rose Wylie: This Rose is Blooming. Alan Yentob meets the painter, known for her exuberant, large-scale canvases. He discovers how her memories and experiences have helped mould her into the artist she is today. **11.35** Film: A Little Chaos. (2014) Period drama, with Kate Winslet and Matthias Schoenaerts. **1.25** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.00** A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.45** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** Countryfile. (R) **9.25** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.55** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **12.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **1.00** Athletics: Anniversary Games. Gabby Logan presents coverage of day two from London Stadium. **4.30** Flog It! (R) **5.30** Secrets of Silicon Valley. (R) **6.30** Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing. (R) **7.00** Inside the Factory. Gregg Wallace explores an enormous Derbyshire coffee factory, where they produce 175,000 jars of instant coffee a day. He follows the production of freeze dried instant coffee, from the arrival of 27 tonnes of Brazilian green coffee beans right through to dispatch. Meanwhile, Cherry Healey learns about the drink's chemistry and Ruth Goodman investigates its origins, visiting the site of the UK's very first coffee house which sprang up in a London churchyard in 1652. (R) **8.00** Golf: The Open Championship Highlights. Eilidh Barbour presents action from the fourth and final day of the prestigious event at Carnoustie Golf Links in Angus, Scotland, as the third Major of the year drew to a close. Each of the last three Opens held at Carnoustie have been decided by a play-off, including Padraig Harrington's triumph in 2007 and Paul Lawrie's win on home soil in 1999. With commentary from Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter and Maureen Madill. **10.00** Shankly: Nature's Fire. Profile of football manager Bill Shankly, examining his success during two periods running Liverpool and the influence his Ayrshire roots had on his career. (R) **11.30** Idris Elba - King of Speed. Part one of two. Documentary in which the Luther star embarks on an international journey to explore the history of car racing while sampling the thrill of competition vehicles. (R) **12.30** Sign Zone: Countryfile. Sean Fletcher presents a special programme on Wales. (R) **1.25** Holly City. Sacha tries a new romance, tensions rise as Meena moves in on Nicky's turf up on Darwin, and Donna puts Zav to the test. **2.25** This is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.30** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Emplayable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** NinjaGo: Possession. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **10.15** Midsomer Murders. (R) **12.15** ITV News: Weather. **12.25** The Voice Kids Live Final. (R) **1.55** Film: Mamma Mia! (2008) Musical comedy, starring Meryl Streep. **4.00** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R) **6.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. Paul meets a large bull mastiff with some very particular demands, a pair of chihuahua pug crosses with a strange family dynamic and an unusual looking mongrel which is very shy. (R) **6.30** ITV News: Weather. **6.45** Regional Programme: Weather. **7.00** Vera. A mother of two is found murdered in her back garden. Vera and Aidan investigate the case, and delve into the disturbing secrets and ongoing conflicts that lurk beneath the surface of the victim's seemingly peaceful suburban community. The case takes a more complicated turn when the dead woman's estranged family make an unexpected reappearance, and while several of her neighbours may have had cause to carry out a crime of passion, her relatives may have had compelling motives of their own to kill. Guest starring Rita Tushingham. (R) **9.00** Unforgotten. Cassie and Sunny go in search of Hayley's family, while a detective who was involved in the original investigation offers his thoughts on why her disappearance remained unsolved. **10.00** ITV News: Weather. **10.20** Holiday Horrors: Caught on Camera. Another selection of clips showcasing what can go wrong on holiday, including a couple getting an unexpected visitor to their tent on a safari holiday. (R) **11.20** Goodwood Festival of Speed. Action from the Goodwood Estate as motor racing enthusiasts from around the world gathered for the historic car and bike event. **12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightshift. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

**6.00** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. (R) **6.15** The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Film: The Boxtrolls. (2014) Stop-motion animated fantasy, with the voice of Isaac Hempstead Wright. **3.20** Bang on Budget. **4.20** Homes by the Med. **5.20** Location, Location, Location. (R) **6.20** Channel 4 News. **6.45** Formula 1 German Grand Prix Highlights. Steve Jones and David Coulthard present action from the 11th round of the season at the Hockenheimring, as the race returned to the calendar after being absent last year. Lewis Hamilton took the honours here in 2016, and will be looking for another victory to help reduce Sebastian Vettel's lead in the standings. **9.00** The Handmaid's Tale. A frustrated Serena Joy becomes desperate, and the Commander tries to make amends. Nick pushes Eden further away, and Offred is faced with an unexpected reunion. **10.10** Artist in Residence: The Sex Clinic. New series. Artists move in to unusual locations to seek fresh inspiration, beginning with Bryony Kimmins, who talks to patients at a sexual health clinic about their lives. **11.05** Film: Stonehearted Asylum. (2014) A lunatic asylum descends into mayhem as the patients take control and try to establish their own society. Gothic horror, starring Kate Beckinsale. **1.10** The Last Leg. Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker are joined by celebrity guests for a comic review of the significant moments of the past seven days. (R) **2.05** Film: My Golden Days. (2015) Premiere. A French anthropologist reflects on his troubled adolescence, including a life-changing trip to Russia. Drama, starring Quentin Dolmaire and Mathieu Amalric. **4.10** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. The host helps three homeowners struggling to sell their property in West Sussex, including indie, who needs to create a lounge from scratch in an old post office room. (R) **5.05** My Kitchen Rules. Helen and Liz are first to cook in the second week. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Kittens. (R) **6.40** Seaside Antics. (R) **6.45** Only the Little White Van. (R) **6.50** Simon. (R) **6.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.30** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.45** Rusty Rivets. (R) **8.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.15** Pirata & Capitano. **8.30** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.50** Floogals. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.30** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Blind Date. (R) **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.20** Film: The Dark Crystal. (1982) **1.20** Access. **1.25** Film: The Dark Crystal. (1982) **1.35** Access. **3.20** Film: Labyrinth. (1986) **4.15** Film: Nanny McPhee. (2005) **5.15** Access. **5.20** Film: Nanny McPhee. (2005) **6.05** Wonderful World of Puppies: Hero Hounds. A litter of doberman pups learns the laws of puppy physics with an introduction to gravity, and also draw on their guard dog instincts when a photographer comes to take pictures. **7.05** Chuckle Time with the Chuckle Brothers. The comedy duo introduce this new clip-show. **7.55** 5 News Weekend. **8.00** Funniest Ever Celebrity Moments. New series. Countdowns of memorable TV moments featuring famous faces. Ore Oduba presents the first selection, which focuses on celebrities making a big impression on talent shows. **9.00** Film: 21 Jump Street. (2012) Two youthful-looking cops are sent undercover as high-school students to bring down a drugs ring. Comedy inspired by the 1980s TV series, starring Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum. **10.00** 5 News Update. **10.05** Film: 21 Jump Street. (2012) **11.10** Film: The Green Hornet. (2011) Comic-book adventure, starring Seth Rogen. **12.10** Access. **12.15** Film: The Green Hornet. (2011) **1.25** SuperCasino. **4.00** Britain's Greatest Bridges. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** Divine Designs. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** BBC Proms 2018 **8.45** Wild Scotland **9.00** Archaeology: A Secret History **10.00** Rich Hall's Presidential Grudge Match **11.30** Six Wives with Lucy Worsley **12.30** Henry VIII's Enforcer: The Rise and Fall of Thomas Cromwell **1.30** Forest, Field & Sky: Art Out of Nature **2.30** Archaeology: A Secret History **3.25** Close  
**ITV2**  
**12.05** Take Me Out **1.35** You've Been Framed! Gold **2.35** Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **3.35** FYI Daily **4.40** Film: Looney Tunes: Back in Action (2003) **4.25** Film: Hotel Transylvania 2 (2015) **5.25** FYI Daily **5.30** Film: Hotel Transylvania 2 (2015) **6.10** Hotel Transylvania: Puppys! **6.15** Film: Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace (1999) **7.20** FYI Daily **7.25** Film: Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace (1999) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: Altersun **11.05** Family Guy **12.05** American Dad! **1.00** You vs Chris & Kam **2.05** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightshift  
**ITV3**  
**9.00** The Halcynon **11.00** Wire in the Blood **1.00** Blue Murder **2.15** Liverpool 1 **3.10** Road to Avonlea **4.45** Murder, She Wrote **5.35** ITV3 Nightshift  
**ITV4**  
**12.00** Tour de France Live. **5.15** Football Rivalries **5.30** Storage Wars: Texas **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** Film: The Chronicles of Riddick (2004) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: The Chronicles of Riddick (2004) **11.20** Rugby World Cup Sevens Highlights **12.20** Film: Red Heat (1988) **1.20** FYI Daily **1.25** Film: Red Heat (1988) **2.25** The Protectors **2.50** ITV4 Nightshift **3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**11.25** The Crystal Maze **12.30** Rude(ish) Tube **12.55** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.55** Young Sheldon **2.25** The Big Bang Theory **6.50** Film: Ranger (2011) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. **10.00** Gogglebox **11.05** Gogglebox Australia **12.10** The Big Bang Theory **1.05** Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. **2.05** Gogglebox Australia **5.15** Rude Tube **3.25** Hollyoaks  
**Film4**  
**11.00** The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery (1966) **1.00** Carry On Cleo (1964) **2.50** One Fine Day (1996) **5.00** Ice Age (2002) **8.45** The Imitation Game (2014) **9.00** Legend (2015) **11.35** Captive (2015) **1.40** To Kill a King (2003) **3.50** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

**Past Malice: An Emma Fielding Mystery, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
Premiere. The archaeologist is hired to consult on the acquisition of a castle-like estate that local legend states is cursed. Mystery, starring Courtney Thorne-Smith. (2018)

TUESDAY

**A Wife's Nightmare, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
A woman who has just recovered from a mental breakdown returns home to pick up the pieces of her life - but her plans are thrown into disarray when a teenage girl claiming to be her husband's long-lost daughter arrives on her doorstep. Drama based on a true story, starring Jennifer Beals. (2014)

WEDNESDAY

**Heart of Murder, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
The lucky recipient of a recent heart transplant sets out to find the identity of her donor and discovers that it was her estranged cousin, who may have been the victim of murder. Thriller, starring Makenzie Vega, Johannan Newmarch and Ben Sullivan. (2016)

**Don't Be Afraid of the Dark, Channel 4, 1.25am**

A girl moves into a gothic mansion with her father and his new girlfriend, and hears strange noises coming from the basement. Her curiosity leads her to unwittingly unleash a swarm of voracious tiny monsters, but her attempts to warn her family of the terrible danger they are in fall on deaf ears. Horror, with Bailee Madison. (2010)



Disturbia, Friday, BBC1, 11.40pm

THURSDAY

**Garage Sale Mystery, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
A garage sale enthusiast puts her eye for a bargain to the task of catching the crooks behind a series of burglaries. Crime drama, with Lori Loughlin. (2013)

FRIDAY

**Disturbia, BBC1, 11.40pm**  
A teenager under house arrest passes the time spying on his neighbours, and begins to suspect one is a serial killer. Thriller, starring Shia LaBeouf. (2007)

# The ladies are back to crack the code of a new series

As New Order sang in their 1990 World Cup anthem World in Motion, "When something's good it's never gone."

That certainly seems to be the case with The Bletchley Circle.

ITV launched the first series in 2012 with a cast led by Anna Maxwell Martin, Rachael Stirling, Sophie Rundle and Julie Graham. They played women who met during the Second World War when they worked as codebreakers at Bletchley Park, deciphering messages from the Nazis.

Seven years after the end of the conflict, they were all bored with their ordinary, domestic lives and looking for a challenge - which came in the form of several suspicious deaths that one of the gang believes are linked and are the work of a serial killer.

Maxwell Martin quit before series two, which involved the remaining members trying to clear the name of another former comrade as she awaits trial for the murder of an old flame.

That run ended in 2014 and ITV decided not to recommission the period drama for a third run, despite the fact that it helped boost the presence of women on screen by having four female leads.

Four years on, the show is back - but not the same as it was before. It's been snapped up by the US streaming service BritBox, who have produced a new version that sees two members of the original team - those played by Stirling and Graham - transported to San Francisco.

"In 2018, BritBox will up the ante with our first commission, more co-productions and more popular programming and star power from all genres appealing to new subscribers along with our very loyal existing members," said the company's president Soumya Sriraman when the show was announced, before adding: "With this new continuation, we have the chance to build on its amazing legacy and give its loyal fans an exciting new chapter."

The Bletchley Circle isn't the first show to receive a new lease of life

thanks to an online firm - the same thing happened to Ripper Street when the BBC axed it, only for Amazon Prime to give it a new lease of life.

When we meet up with Jean and Millie again it's 1956. Jean uncovers evidence that suggests the killer who murdered a Bletchley girl during the war may be up to his old tricks in the city by the Bay. They set sail for America in the hope of teaming up with one of their US counterparts who was employed at the famous Presidio.

Using a scrap of wartime code, they locate the woman in question, Iris, a musician and maths genius who, along with her engineering protégé Hailey, agrees to lend a hand.

Their investigation takes them deep into the heart of the Fillmore District and closer than ever before to a killer who doesn't just take the lives of his victims, he mutilates them too.

Iris struggles to cope with the pressure - can she hold it together to make sure justice is done?



The Bletchley Circle: San Francisco, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

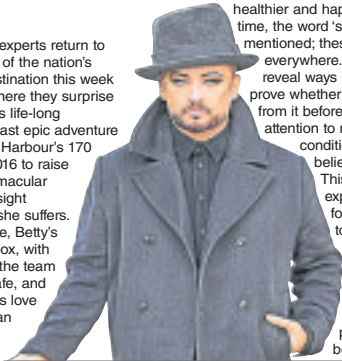
# BEST OF THE REST

WEDNESDAY

**Live Well For Longer Channel 4, 8pm**

Presenters Kate Quilton and Tamal Ray, along with roving reporter Morland Sanders, continue their trawl through various topics in a bid to make us all healthier and happier. Once upon a time, the word 'stress' was never mentioned; these days, it's everywhere. The hosts reveal ways in which viewers can prove whether they're suffering from it before turning their attention to relieving the condition, including - believe it or not - singing.

This week's big experiment looks at food that may be able to bring down blood pressure and sees Professor Adrian Brady from the University of Glasgow put porridge oats, beetroot and coconut water to the test.



Who Do You Think You Are?, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

MONDAY

**Who Do You Think You Are? BBC1, 9pm**

Singer Boy George knows that his maternal grandmother was found wandering the streets of Dublin as a small child and put in a children's home, and also heard that one of his great uncles was hanged in Dublin's Mountjoy jail and is somehow connected to Kevin Barry, who was commemorated in an Irish rebel song. As George uncovers the grim details of what really happened to his grandmother and his great uncle, he also delights in a new sense of his family being truly part of Irish history.

Who Is America?

Channel 4, 10pm

Some viewers may have wonder if the reason why Sacha Baron Cohen apparently moved away from the satirical shows and films that made his name is because he simply got too famous. In theory, after you've starred in an Oscar-nominated, worldwide box-office hit like Borat, even politicians who don't normally keep up with cult comedy should start to recognise you. However, it turns out that we've underestimated Baron Cohen's mastery of disguise. He's spent the past year undercover and has managed to secure meetings with figures across the US political spectrum - including Sarah Palin,

who claimed in an angry Facebook post that she had been 'eduped' into an interview. So, don't be surprised to see some big names being skewered in the second episode of his new series.

TUESDAY

**Love Your Garden ITV, 8pm**

Alan Titchmarsh and his team of experts return to transform the backyards of some of the nation's most deserving people. Their destination this week is Fareham near Southampton where they surprise 90-year-old Betty Hicks, a fearless life-long volunteer and fundraiser. Betty's last epic adventure saw her abseil down Portsmouth Harbour's 170 metre-high Spinnaker Tower in 2016 to raise money for a condition known as macular degeneration - a gradual loss of sight prevalent in the elderly, of which she suffers. Despite her get-up-and-go attitude, Betty's garden is a green-free concrete box, with many levels and trip hazards, so the team set about transforming it into a safe, and sensory haven. Inspired by Betty's love of vivid colour, the team creates an elegant formal garden that's brimming with the brightest of shades.



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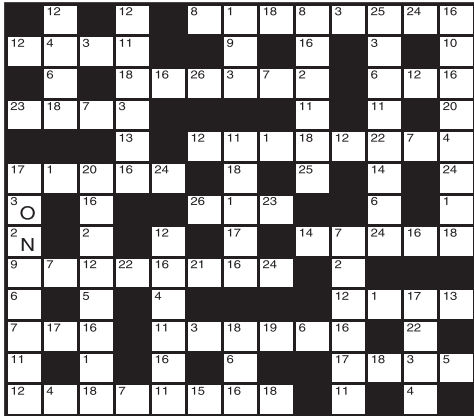


## BRAIN GYM

No.489

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	C	2	D	3	W	4	V	5	N	6	B	7	Y	8	M	9	I	10	G	11	J	12	A	13	Q
14	Z	15	S	16	O	17	T	18	H	19	L	20	F	21	R	22	K	23	U	24	E	25	P	26	X

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.

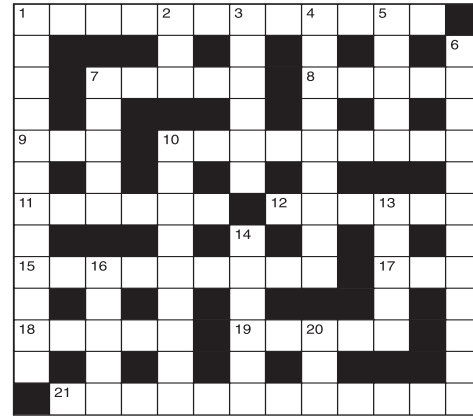
## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

- Broken-hearted because the record is played at such an advanced hour (12)
- A tedious pest? (5)
- Sailor may employ vituperation (5)
- I shall shortly become unwell (3)
- Tavern learner hires out to man in book trade (9)
- Spiritual situation of patients? (6)
- Why the rebellion cannot be put down? (6)
- Tea's ready for this special occasion (6,3)
- Tuneful travelling medium? (3)
- In the morning everybody returned to see the animal (5)
- Smallest egghead gets in final (5)
- Craftsman who makes furniture from rock (5-7)

## Down

- Without even a ghost of a hope? (12)
- A row results when it is put in (3)
- His writing was not noted for originality (6)
- It's a risk to have more than fifty with skill (9)
- Contact to get money (5)
- Great error if freezer is involved (12)
- Feel depressed underneath (5)
- Post Office clear-out in broken china-ware (9)
- This paint is not suitable (5)
- A theologian went first? That's rotten! (6)
- Does it hurt to be intelligent? (5)
- Top performer is one in suit (3)



## Quick Clues:

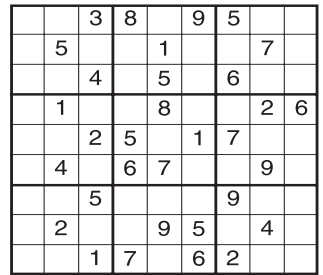
## Across

- Misunderstanding (7,5)
- Put off (5)
- Don (3,2)
- Undivided (3)
- Force (9)
- Summary (6)
- Ripe (6)
- Applicable (9)
- Hostilities (3)
- Be (5)
- Express (5)
- Meddling (12)

## Down

- Map-maker (12)
- Place (3)
- Audacious (6)
- Hasty (9)
- Additional (5)
- Incontrovertible (12)
- Clothe (5)
- Selected group (9)
- Let down (5)
- Snub (6)
- Rule (5)
- Sailor (3)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS &gt;

5	6	7	4	9	2	3	1	8
9	2	4	1	3	8	5	7	6
8	1	3	7	5	6	2	9	4
7	9	6	8	2	4	1	5	3
3	4	8	9	1	5	6	2	7
2	5	1	6	7	3	8	4	9
6	8	2	5	4	9	7	3	1
4	7	5	3	6	1	9	8	2
1	3	9	2	8	7	4	6	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
 CRYPTIC - Across: 4 Flights; 8 Boxing; 9 Overact; 10 Spells; 11 Listen; 12 Aspirate; 18 Postpone; 20 Dynamo; 21 Slight; 22 Solicit; 23 Bear on; 24 Adhered. Down: 1 Abysmal; 2 Excerpt; 3 Antier; 5 Loveless; 6 Garish; 7 Ticked; 13 Apposite; 14 Forgery; 15 Letting; 16 Byword; 17 Saline; 19 Tiller.  
 QUICK - Across: 4 Respite; 8 Edible; 9 Skilled; 10 Repeat; 11 Nettle; 12 Intrepid; 18 Overturn; 20 Decent; 21 Handle; 22 Capital; 23 Glance; 24 Beneath. Down: 1 Refrain; 2 Dispute; 3 Please; 5 Enkindle; 6 Polite; 7 Treble; 13 Protract; 14 Pudding; 15 Integer; 16 Decade; 17 Device; 19 Really.

## Quiz

- Who was the Greek sun god?
- Of what is Moscow's Tsar Kolokol the world's largest example?
- Which casino game was adapted from the game hazard?
- How many valves does a bugle have?
- Which Jewish festival commemorates the exodus from Egypt?
- What is the largest living lizard?
- With which country did Germany sign the Anti-Comintern Pact in 1936?
- In Greek mythology, who was overthrown by his son Zeus?
- What was Susan Mayoss-Hurd the first female priest to do?
- Which Italian word for 'little book' is used to denote an opera text?

## Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Billy Bunter; 2 Cancer; 3 Nautical mile; 4 The Pope; 5 Malcolm Fraser; 6 Netherlands; 7 Yehudi Menuhin; 8 Henry James; 9 Kenneth Branagh; 10 Kent.

## Niner: FRACTION

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

45654321  
9671178  
95875

gives a mythical being,  
gives a second mythical being,  
gives a third mythical being.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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**LET**  
Belbroughton Road, HALESOWEN £895 pcm+ Fees  
A newly decorated & superbly proportioned semi detached family home on the very popular development The Huntslands, being convenient for all local amenities. The property comprises front reception room with doors leading to large lounge with patio doors, fitted kitchen with appliances, 3 double bedrooms and bathroom with separate shower cubicle. The property benefits from a garage, gas central heating, double glazing, solar panels, and a lovely private rear garden. EPC: B



**LET**  
Wesley Avenue, HALESOWEN £750 pcm+ Fees  
We are pleased to offer this traditional 3 bedroom terraced property located in a cul de sac position & close to local amenities. The property benefits from double glazing and gas central heating. Entrance porch, hallway, 2 good sized reception rooms, kitchen with oven/hob, conservatory, downstairs w.c., 3 bedrooms and family bathroom with separate shower. There is off road parking for 2 cars, front & rear gardens. EPC: E



**NEW**  
Surfeit Hill Road, CRADLEY HEATH £700 pcm+ Fees  
A semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: Large Lounge, modern fitted kitchen, shower room, 3 bedrooms, double glazing, gas central heating, driveway & garage parking, rear garden. EPC: C



**NEW**  
Perivale Way, STOURBRIDGE £625 pcm+ Fees  
A fantastic 2 bedroom semi-detached house conveniently located to Merry Hill, Stourbridge & train station. This newly decorated home has entrance hallway, front lounge, kitchen/diner with integrated fridge/freezer and washing machine, rear garden, upstairs are 2 double bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, gas central heating and double glazing. Not to be missed! EPC: C



Cakemore Road, ROWLEY REGIS £595 pcm+ Fees  
• 1ST MONTH RENT HALF PRICE • A well presented 2 bedroom family home in this very popular location close to Rowley Regis train station & easy access to the M5. The accommodation comprises of 2 reception rooms both with fireplaces, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms. The property further benefits from central heating, double glazing, garden behind the parking & off road parking to rear. EPC: D



**NEW**  
Coppice Road, CRADLEY HEATH £585 pcm+ Fees  
Recently refurbished to a good standard. Ideally located on the Timberlee Estate for the local primary school. This 2 double bedroom house features 1 reception room, modern kitchen/diner, house bathroom with shower, covered storage area to the rear, rear garden, on road parking. EPC: C



Bloomfield Street West, HALESOWEN £575 pcm+ Fees  
This lovely unfurnished mews terrace property is located close to Halesowen, local buses and for Earls and Windsor High School. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, downstairs wc, gas central heating, double glazing, parking space to rear, rear garden. EPC: C



Beaumont Road, HALESOWEN/BLACKHEATH £575 pcm+ Fees  
• UNDERGOING SOME REDECORATION AND NEW CARPETS THROUGHOUT • This terraced property is conveniently located close to Blackheath Town Centre and Rowley Regis train station. The house features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, lean to, downstairs bathroom with shower over bath, 2 double bedrooms and rear garden. This property also benefits from double glazing and gas central heating. EPC: D



Clement Road, HALESOWEN/CRADLEY HEATH £550 pcm+ Fees  
Conveniently situated close to Blackheath Town Centre & Rowley Regis train station this 2 bedroom terraced house comprises of 2 reception rooms, additional living/utility room, fitted kitchen with gas oven/hob, downstairs bathroom with separate w.c., upstairs are 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating with new boiler, rear garden with a patio area, on road parking. EPC: D



Hammersley Close, HALESOWEN £550 pcm+ Fees  
• UNDERGOING A RE-DECORATION • Located in the very quiet cul-de-sac, close to local buses to Halesowen, Cradley Heath and Merry Hill, also close to Cradley Heath Train Station, is this unfurnished mid terrace house, comprising of: gas central heating, fitted kitchen, living room, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower off the taps, rear garden, driveway parking. EPC: C



**NEW PRICE**  
Bloomfield Street West, HALESOWEN £545 pcm+ Fees  
A traditional style terraced property in this most convenient location close to Halesowen Town Centre, local shopping, schools and public transport facilities. This property offers a lounge, dining kitchen, cellar, 2 bedrooms and bathroom to the 1st floor. Also benefiting from gas central heating, double glazing and a private rear garden. EPC: D



**NEW**  
Tudor Vale, SEDGLEY £530 pcm+ Fees  
Located in this ever popular cul-de-sac is this end mews house which will benefit from a new internal re-decoration before the commencement of a new tenancy and new carpets, briefly comprising of: gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted dining kitchen (NO COOKER), downstairs WC, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, paved rear garden, driveway parking, unfurnished. EPC: C



Whitehall Court, HALESOWEN £525 pcm+ Fees  
Centrally located to Halesowen Town Centre is this well presented 1st floor flat with private entrance, hallway, kitchen with appliances, living room, bathroom with newly fitted shower, 2 good size bedrooms, communal garden & secure gated parking to rear of property. EPC: C



Wordsley Court, WORDSLEY £525 pcm+ Fees  
• 1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE • 1st floor fully refurbished large apartment within walking distance of Wordsley Regis & King George V park. Featuring lovely lounge, 2 generous size double bedrooms, fitted kitchen (no appliances), shower room, secure parking to rear of property. EPC: C



**NEW**  
Ferguson Drive, TIPTON £500 pcm+ Fees  
A lovely modern 2nd floor apartment featuring 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, loft space, electric storage heating, double glazing, 2 allocated parking spaces, communal gardens, internal viewing recommended. Deposit £850. EPC: C



Southgate Way, DUDLEY £499 pcm+ Fees  
• 1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE • A stunning and spacious well presented unfurnished 1st floor apartment featuring 2 bedrooms, electric storage heating, double glazing, open plan living room with fitted kitchen (includes a sofa, wardrobes and appliances, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: C



Hingley Court, CRADLEY HEATH/OLD HILLS £495 pcm+ Fees  
In the centre of Old Hill. This lovely 1st floor apartment features an open plan lounge/kitchen with a washer/dryer and fridge freezer, 2 large double bedrooms, modern bathroom with shower, 1 allocated parking space behind electric gates. Not to be missed. EPC: B/C



**NEW**  
Clifton Street, STOURBRIDGE £450 pcm+ Fees  
A stunning apartment set in the Old Quarter of Stourbridge. Ideal for the town centre and transport links. The apartment is on the ground floor and features a great size lounge, new kitchen, new bathroom, 1 double bedroom, on road parking. EPC: D



Warwick Close, OLDBURY £450 pcm+ Fees  
A 1 bedroom ground floor flat being double glazed and all electric heating. The accommodation features lounge, fully fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, front garden. EPC: C



**NEW**  
Belgrave Road, HALESOWEN/BLACKHEATH £425 pcm+ Fees  
A large ground floor modern apartment within easy reach of local shops, bus links and Rowley Regis train station. Featuring a large lounge, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, 1 double bedroom, newly fitted bathroom suite with shower. Gas central heating, small rear garden with private entrance. EPC: B/C

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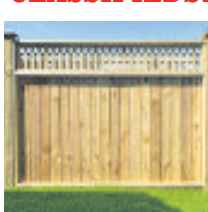
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# 7

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### Classified Ads

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## Classified Ads



# Fabulous F-PACE ferries top 'girl' on a tourist trip

By Sharon Walters

**It was quite a challenge – giving the chief executive of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts a whistle stop tour of the Western Highlands based on Fort William.**

A woman extremely well world travelled. There would be five of us in total to transport around and fortunately I managed to arrange a test of the fabulous Jaguar F-PACE Sport with the 3.0 V6 engine to efficiently and comfortably get us around a few hundred miles of sight-seeing.

It's dynamic, stylish and did very well as a mini tour bus! It has a 650 litre boot, useful for our luggage and picnics, and easily seats three in the back. It really is a full-size, mid-size crossover.

This F-Pace has 300bhp and AWD. Even laden with the five of us and luggage, it was quick off the mark when I needed it to be and thoroughly enjoyed (as I did) the winding magnificent roads of the western highlands.

The eight-speed automatic transmission with Jaguar sequential shift was a pure joy – this fantastic gearbox is very responsive as needed and when we did hit slow traffic (rare in these parts) took the stress and strain of creeping along.

For a 'tall' Jaguar the F-Pace steers, rides and handles just as you would expect a 'normal' Jaguar to. Even on those fantastic winding Scottish roads there was little roll, it grips well going into the corners and comes out ready to on in another straight line without seeming to blink. It's slick and accurate and if you take the dampers out of standard mode and into dynamic – wowee! And much of that performance comes from back when this car was out being tested, with a lot of development work done on winding Welsh roads.

The driving is good, as you would expect from a taller car, and it's also good for those tourists sitting in the back seat.

Trim quality and build quality are extremely good and specification is better than the opposition. On the Sport it includes LED tail lights, 2-zone climate control, all-surface progress, hill launch assist, tyre repair system, InControl Touch Navigation, Apps and Wi-Fi, autonomous emergency braking, lane departure warning, dynamic stability control and traffic sign recognition and intelligent speed limiter. Going back to InControl, what a well-thought out system – better than similar systems in some of the opposition.

Official figures are 47.1mpg on a combined cycle and I managed 44mpg and I was pleased with that bearing in mind the miles I travelled. 0-60mph comes in 5.8 seconds and Co2 emissions are 159 g/km. If you want better economy the F-PACE can also be had with the Wolverhampton-built Ingenium, 2.0litre diesel or if you want even more pace and money is not problem,, there's the supercharged 3.0litre V6 with 375bhp and 0-60mph in 5.1 seconds.

Priced from £52,665 on-the-road.



It's dynamic, stylish and did very well as a mini tour bus



There's a capacious 650-litre boot



The luxurious and spacious interior



The missing piece of the self-driving puzzle is intelligent algorithms, not more sensors, rules and maps

## Trial and error is best way to perfect autonomous cars

**An autonomous car has used artificial intelligence to improve its driving skills within 20 minutes.**

Engineers from Cambridge University have developed so-called "reinforcement learning" which enables the vehicle to improve its ability to stay in lane with some initial guidance from a human.

The team at Wayve showed how a Renault fitted with the technology used trial and error to correctly follow a lane, without the use of sensors and engineered rules as other self-driving cars work.

At first, the car swerves to the side, requiring regular intervention from the safety driver.

With each correction, the AI makes fewer mistakes, eventually learning how to properly stay in lane unaided.

"The missing piece of the self-driving puzzle is intelligent algorithms, not more sensors, rules and maps," said Wayve co-Founder and chief executive Amar Shah.

"Humans have a fascinating ability to perform complex tasks in the real world, because our brains allow us to learn quickly and transfer knowledge across our many experiences. We want to give our vehicles better brains, not more hardware."

Wayve envisages AI reinforcement learning being used further in the future to deal with everything from traffic lights to roundabouts and intersections.

## History of the Jeep



Jeeps came from need for cheap four-wheel-drive suitable for military use

**The original jeep was produced 75 years ago through the enforced union of Willys-Overland and Ford, after the US Army set manufacturers against one another in a competition to design and build a cheap four-wheel-drive vehicle suitable for military use.**

At that time scout vehicles were confined to motorcycles and sidecars from World War I together with modified versions of the Ford Model T.

What the army wanted was a new kind of utility transport – lightweight and four-wheel-drive – with the first prototype ready to roll within seven weeks.

137 companies were invited to submit designs but only Ford, Willys-Overland, and the American Bantam Car Company (ABCC) did so. The initial contract for 70 jeeps was given to Bantam as the only manufacturer which actually made the deadline.

ABCC, makers of the American Austin Seven, had the advantage of already working on a similar vehicle but they only had a very small workforce and production unit.

When it came to the crunch their model failed to withstand the robust military testing.

By that time World War II had broken out so the other two bidders – Willys-Overland and The Ford Motor Company – were given free access to the Bantam plans and prototype; Willys then produced the Quad, while Ford came up with the Pygmy.

## West Midland drivers not ready for electric car revolution

**Three in four drivers believe the country is acting too slowly in preparation for a surge in demand for electric cars.**

With the 2040 deadline for a ban on petrol and diesel models now being recommended to be brought forward by 10 years, drivers dread what the future might look like with one in two Brits fearing they might not be able to complete even routine journeys.

Research conducted by independent car buying site carwow revealed that a lack of charging points is the biggest worry among motorists (72 per cent).

Despite pledges to increase the number of charging points around the UK to 70,000 by 2020 (an increase of 87 per cent on current numbers) and London boroughs leading the way with 2,630 more points (a 300 per cent increase) by 2019, drivers are still not convinced this is enough – or that it will become reality.

Asked what their biggest fears are about a lack of charging points, drivers in West Midlands revealed that it is being unable to complete essential journeys (45 per cent), running out of power and being stranded (63 per cent) and facing long queues at charging points (41 per cent).

This uncertainty is putting drivers off switching away from petrol or diesel models, 31 per cent of those surveyed admitted.

The other factors stopping greater adoption of electric vehicles are the expense of charging a car (46 per cent) and the cost of the cars themselves (61 per cent).

Despite this, however, the necessity to change remains a factor and 16 per cent of motorists admit they do believe their next car will be an electric or hybrid.

Millennials are first in the queue to go green with one in 20 ready to switch away from petrol and diesel for good. More men (74 per cent) than women (53 per cent) are willing to take the plunge.

Newcastle leads the way as the UK's electric hotspot, with 17 per cent of drivers surveyed by carwow saying they're prepared to buy an EV in the next 18-24 months, followed by Bristol (16 per cent), London (15 per cent) and Birmingham (12 per cent).

To do their bit for the environment, 45 per cent of drivers said they'd be willing to go up to 10 per cent above their current new car budget – but a larger 58 per cent believe the government should permanently incentivise the purchase of an EV or hybrid.

The most popular EV with carwow's two million monthly visitors remains the Nissan Leaf (38 per cent of electric car specifications in May), ahead of the Renault Zoe (28 per cent).



A lack of charging points is the biggest worry among motorists

Alex Rose, trading director at carwow, says: "We've seen demand for electric cars stall in 2018 so far, due to drivers' uncertainty over what the future looks like.

"Motorists are constantly asking 'will there be enough charging points?' 'how long will it take to charge my car?' and 'will the price of electric cars ever come down?'"

"It needs to be a confident choice for a driver to make, especially with the petrol and diesel deadline looming. Consumer

confidence, or a lack thereof doesn't just impact sales; manufacturers are dragging their feet with electric production whilst the vehicles aren't selling and that's having an additional impact on lead time, which results in an additional obstacle for drivers.

"Now is the time for a joined up approach from the motoring industry and local and central government to build the infrastructure Britain needs for an all-electric future."





This fourth-generation car is entirely new

# New Focus packing plenty of tech and still leader of pack

By Jon Reay

Twenty years after the first Focus was launched, Ford's mid-sized hatch might not be the sales chart-topper it once was – now usurped by its smaller sibling, the Fiesta – but there's no underestimating how important it still is to the brand and to buyers in the UK.

As you'd expect, Ford isn't messing around here. This fourth-generation car is entirely new, is filled with even more technology than before, and promises to be even better to drive thanks to a stiffer chassis and some clever suspension bits and pieces.

There's also an array of new or heavily improved engines available, including new 1.5-litre petrols with fuel-sipping cylinder deactivation tech.

Also new is the eight-speed automatic gearbox, complete here with a Jaguar-style rotary dial for selecting park, reverse and drive. Replacing the previous PowerShift dual-clutch set-ups, this is a proper automatic – and a good one at that.

The Focus gets four engines – two petrols, two diesels – in various states of tune. A 1.0-litre EcoBoost borrowed from the old car is the cheapest, although we'd advise against the entry-level 83bhp version in a car of this size.



The new Focus is an even better drive

We drove the 148bhp 1.5 petrol and it felt just about right: torquey all the way through the rev range, with just enough power to have some fun. It's refined too – virtually silent most of the time, only generating that typical three-cylinder thrum with heavy use of the throttle.

Information about gradient, cornering speed and driving style is fed to the gearbox's computer, which does a surprisingly good job of working out when to shift down or up on its own, meaning you're rarely left waiting for the right gear to materialise.

The Focus's manual options – two six-speed 'boxes – have been tweaked for improved shift quality and efficiency too.

Aside from its bold design, it was driving dynamics where the original 1998 Focus really stood out from the crowd – so does the fourth generation carry on the tradition? In a word, yes. It's still great fun to drive, and arguably more enjoyable behind the wheel than the car it replaces.

The driving position is spot on, dials are all clear and easy to read, and most trim levels come with plenty of seat adjustability (for the driver at least).

Front and rear visibility is on a par with rivals', and the Focus is easy enough to park without the use of any electronic aids. That said, parking sensors are included on Titanium trim and above, while Ford's newly improved Active Park Assist system is even easier to use than before: provided your Focus has the eight-speed automatic, it'll now accelerate and brake as well as steer itself into a space.

Its wheelbase has been increased to allow for extra rear legroom, and the dashboard is now less deep and sculpted in such a way that the interior feels airier and more spacious. Rear passengers get plenty of legroom even in hatchback models, although taller passengers could feel the squeeze on headroom – particularly when the panoramic sunroof option is fitted.

However, if practicality is a priority, the estate version has you covered. With the rear seats in place it'll now take loads that are 43mm higher and 25mm longer than before, while folding them flat – now at the pull of a switch – gives a load capacity of 1,650 litres. That's not quite as spacious as the cavernous Skoda Octavia estate, but it does beat the similarly sized Vauxhall Astra Sports Tourer by 20 litres or so.

Surprise surprise, the new Focus is – from the driver's seat at least – probably the best car in its segment once again. There are rivals with posher interiors, cheaper price tags or longer warranties, but as an overall package the Focus is still the one to beat.

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Bhylls Acre School were runners-up in the competition behind Stowheath



Bunkered – Palmers Cross School pupils during the Wolverhampton Primary Tri Golf Festival



Youngsters from St Thomas's Primary putt their skills to the test



Rylan Povey, aged 11, and Maddison Mitchel, 12

# Stowheath leave school rivals green with envy

## SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

***"We are keen to introduce youngsters to the sport and James will be holding some summer camps during the holidays."***

**STOWHEATH Primary School are top of the class when it comes to golf.**

Youngsters from the school claimed victory in the Wolverhampton Primary Tri Golf Festival, held at Penn Golf Club.

The popular annual event continues to go from strength to strength with 30 schools from the city taking part in the qualifying rounds. Six schools – Stowheath, St Thomas C of E, St Andrews C of E, Palmers Cross, Bhylls Acre, and Rakegate – battled their way through to the final shootout for glory.

And it was Stowheath who came out on top with Bhylls Acre claiming the runners-up spot and St Andrews C of E completing the top three.

It meant the trio of schools were able to go on to represent Wolverhampton at the Black Country Games.

### Enjoyed

Partnerships and Schools Sports (PASS) worked with Penn Golf Club to stage the final, with the host club deeming it a huge success.

"There were 66 pupils from six schools taking part and they all seemed to have enjoyed the day," said Penn GC secretary Mick Woodhouse.

"They were from the schools that had won the various festivals that were held during the spring term in secondary schools across Wolverhampton."

"There were six different events featuring various challenges for the youngsters. We closed down the



St Andrews C of E School youngsters

first and second holes and also used the putting green. "And there was a bunker challenge which they all enjoyed. It was a great day and it ended with our lady captain, Angela Hughes, and club professional, James Wright, presenting the prizes."

Penn are pro-active when it comes to encouraging junior participation and Woodhouse is hoping the event will help produce golfers of the future.

"It's great to see youngsters getting an introduction to the sport," he said.

"This was probably the first time some of them had played on a golf course."

"There were several parents there supporting their children and from the club's point of view it would be great if a few of the youngsters took up the sport and joined our junior section."

"We are keen to introduce youngsters to the sport



Rakegate Primary were among those taking part

and James will be holding some summer camps during the holidays.

"We have managed to obtain some funding from the golf foundation to help with the cost."

As well as the primary school participants, there were also a number of secondary school students from Our Lady and St Chads on hand to ensure the event ran smoothly.

Rebecca Gingell, school games organiser/director of specialism at Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy, said: "Pupils from Our Lady and St Chad Academy officiated and led the year four pupils through all the activities."

"It was a great day, providing young people with the opportunity to play golf on a real golf course and start on the club pathway. A big thank you to the club and OLSC for the support and delivery of the day."

## Boss Moore's merry over Scottish trip

ALBION boss Darren Moore says his side have taken plenty of positives from their pre-season trip to Scotland.

The Baggies have been ramping up their preparations for the 2018/19 campaign by taking part in a gruelling training camp at St Andrew's University.

Those put through their paces included new goalkeeper Sam Johnstone as well as James Morrison, who is battling to prove his fitness and earn a new deal.

And Moore said he was pleased with the progress his players made. "In terms of the group moving to the next stage of our preparations, I couldn't be more satisfied," the boss said.

"The group have applied themselves really, really well."

"We're seeing good signs developing within the group," he added. "The application from the players has been magnificent in terms of their going about their work and achieving here what we set out to do."

## Golf day in memory of late, great Cyrille

AN Albion supporters' club is holding a golf day in memory of Cyrille Regis that will be attended by his widow Julia.

Alan Jones-Bratt, founder of the West Bromwich Albion Supporters' Golf Club, has organised the Cyrille Regis Memorial Golf Day at Sandwell Park Golf Club for Friday, August 17.

As well as honouring Regis's memory, any money raised will be donated to the family. Julia has agreed to play a round and will be entering a team of four. She said: "It's wonderful they want to honour Cyrille's legacy by dedicating the day to his memory."

Former Albion and Villa boss Ron Atkinson and ex-Villa player Steve Staunton could also play. Jones-Bratt is looking for sponsors and players keen to join in.

Julia is also planning to organise her own golf day to remember Cyrille at a later date. To play in, or to sponsor the memorial golf day, call 07786708362. The closing date for entries is August 3.

## Diffusion are spot on to net national spoils

DIFFUSION FC Veterans defied the heatwave and a stern test to put their rivals on the spot in a national competition.

The Wolverhampton side overcame a Walthamstow-based Interwood side featuring Barry Hayles and Leon Constantine to be crowned as Over-40s national champions on penalties.

The shoot-out success in three national final at Lilleshall followed a 1-1 draw in normal time. Paul Whyte had equalised for Diffusion.

"It was a really hot day and we were up against a very good and physical side, but the game was played in a great atmosphere," said Diffusion player-manager Andrew Sperling.

Successful penalty takers for Diffusion were former professionals Dean Bennett and Jake Sedgemore, captain and man-of-the-match Rob Perks, and Whyte.

"There were 22 very tired players coming off at the end in such hot conditions, but we went off and had a couple of beers to celebrate," said Sperling.





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## Tyler will warm up for this title shot

TYLER Denny will warm-up for his English title tilt with a six-round headline bout at Walsall Town Hall on Saturday.

The Rowley Regis middleweight boxer – signed to Black Country Boxing – is set to face Leeds' Reece Cartwright for the English crown, as ordered by the British Boxing Board of Control that he will compete for the English crown.

With the contest out at purse bids, BCB's head of boxing, Errol Johnson, has moved quickly to get reigning Midlands Area middleweight champion Denny ready for his title tilt with a warm up bout.

"It's important to get Tyler out," Johnson said. "Tyler's last fight was a six-rounder in May so he needs a few rounds in before starting camp for the Cartwright fight."

Also on the bill this weekend is BCB's new signing at super bantamweight, James Beech Junior.

The Bloxwich native is joined by Walsall's Shaun Cooper (super lightweight) and Levi Ferguson (super welterweight). Wolverhampton cruiserweight Antony Woolery is also in action.

Tickets are on sale now from the Walsall Town Hall box office.

## Swimming club pull together to finish with a win

SHAKING off the disappointment of failing to be promoted in the Junior League, Halesowen swimmers travelled to the season curtain closer in Tamworth in the final round of the Mercian League.

The squad was stretched to almost breaking point due to holiday commitments with many swimmers being asked to compete in an older age group and club veterans donning their swimming gear once more to help out in the open age group.

In a tightly fought gala it all came down to the final relay, which Halesowen won to gain victory by the smallest of margins.

Special mentions must go to the returning legends who helped in the open age group, Natasha and Georgia Bird, Zac Collins, Julie Everton and Stu Jones and also to double individual event winners Grace Guy, Sahana Jain, Holly Simpson and William Walker.

The hardest working swimmers were, without question, the 12 years girls' team of Grace Guy – aged 10 – with Audrey Hackett, Aahana Jain and Sahana Jain who, due to the decimated squad, had to swim all of the 14 years girls' races as well as their own age group.

The final scores were Halesowen 238, Bromsgrove 236, Perry Beeches 207 and Tamworth 153.

## Darcey is a big hit on the world stage



Darcey Hawkes

A FUTURE karate star from Dudley has already tasted success at the World Championships at the tender age of seven.

Darcey Hawkes started practising karate when she was three and four years later she has won a bronze medal on the global stage.

Both Darcey and her older brother Harvey, aged 15, were part of the Great British karate squad taking part in the

Championships held in Dundee, Scotland.

But even though Harvey just missed out on a medal in his age group, his fourth-placed finish was incredibly impressive considering he was one of the youngest in his category.

"He's still beating himself up a bit," admitted proud mum Julie Hawkes. "It's the first time ever he didn't medal, but he was competing against people two

years older than him because the category was 15 to 17.

"Darcey got a bronze She has been doing it since she was three, as soon as we could get a karate suit on her she was in one."

Harvey and Darcey, who live in Quarry Bank, both train at Dudley Shukokai Karate with their aunt, Mandie Read, who is an England coach for the AKA Karate team.

## Undefeated Stour secure losing draw

STOURBRIDGE remain undefeated at the top of Division Three of the Birmingham and District League.

Handsworth put themselves in a strong position by scoring 357 for four off 55 overs but the home side got themselves out of jail by holding on to the last wicket and forcing a losing draw. Opener Waseem Mazhar and number three Renrick Hooper took the score from 36 for one to 177 for two. Mazhar bowled by Nathan Crudeli for 76.

The punishing run rate continued from Hooper with the number four Bevon Brown, together they put on 179 pushing the run rate to 6.5 runs an over. Hooper remained not out on 167 (that included 15 fours and ten sixes) and Brown was out in the final over bowled by Crudeli for 73.

Stour faced their first outright defeat of the season as they crumbled to 85 for four. Paceman Winston Lewis took the wicket of Juhar Johal (5), Matt Bradley (17), Harshad Patel (21) and the prized wicket of ex-Handsworth skipper Marvarick Pery (0). Things turned from bad to worse when skipper Josh Banks was bowled by Kenrick Smith for 12.

Hopes of Stour victory faded despite the 84 between Dwayne Crossgill and Crudeli, when Crossgill was caught in the covers for 43 off Brown. Crudeli and batsman Jitesh Jivan-Patel progressed the score from 169 to 225 for seven when Crudeli was caught for 79. Jivan-Patel (67) was run out off the final delivery but helped Stour secure a losing draw.

## New club makes fun the priority

A STOURBRIDGE resident has started a local walking football group and is keen for folks to get involved.

Kevin Weston, aged 58, a lifelong football fan, says he wants to form a group that despite being competitive, has fun and a sense of togetherness at its core.

"I've been with other clubs and it's all very serious," he said. "I played indoor football many years ago, but walking football has made me remember why I enjoyed playing so much."

The club, which currently has up to ten members, is looking for new players. Contact Kevin via email at kevinwestonuk@yahoo.com.

# HALES RETURN TO TOP FORM

HALESOWEN returned to winning ways in front of a bumper crowd of over 800 at Seth Somers Park.

Opening bowler Eddie Rhodes took five for 35 to lead the way as Tamworth slumped to 103 all out before an unbroken fourth wicket stand between Hales skipper Alexei Kervezee (52 not out) and Ed Kilbee (38 not out).

They lifted the home side from a precarious 42 for three to a convincing seven wicket victory which takes them up to fifth in the table in Birmingham League Division One, seven points behind Oswestry, who they visit in north Shropshire on Saturday.

Captain Kervezee said: "That was more like it, that's the standard we need to set for the remaining set of matches. We made a few changes in the week and that will take some time to bed-in, we know that, but also we have spent a lot of time with mapping out a few key things for the upcoming matches.

### Brilliant

"Eddie was brilliant and together with us upping the ante at training, it is beginning to show. We are now seven points off a promotion spot and we play Oswestry who are second, which is exactly what we want."

Asked about his return to form, the skipper said: "I really feel I am getting back to my best again. It's been quite a challenge learning to captain a team and be the figurehead of the club. It's a lot to take on when you are new to it all.

I have really good support around me all the time from both the players and the off-field personnel. We knew it would all click eventually."

The second team suffered a blip but remain in top spot having lost to Ombersley. After sliding to 103 all out in 38 overs thanks to Mohammed Shaub's 41, Halesowen were undone by Ryan D'Oliveira's 5-29 followed up by a quickfire 51. Only leg spinner Archie Reeves (3-43) made any headway for the visitors, who lost by five wickets.

## Enville duo book trip to Portugal



Aidan Kingsbury, left, and Richard Copsey with the Lombard Trophy Photo by Clint Hughes

TEENAGE amateur Aidan Kingsbury produced a devastating round with PGA professional Richard Copsey to win the Lombard Trophy Midlands regional final on home soil at Envile Golf Club.

They swept aside their rivals to card a dominant 11 par round of 61 to win by five shots ahead of their nearest challengers, Jamie Hillier and Ashley Wilding, of Solihull's Robin Hood Golf Club, and John Stubbs and Barry Durbridge, of Tadmorton Heath Golf Club near Banbury.

The Envile duo will travel to Portugal for

the £41,450, Coca-Cola and Pestana Resorts supported National Pro-Am grand final which will be played at the Vila Sol resort in the Algarve between September 20 and 21.

Dudley-based Kingsbury, 19, is a former junior captain at Envile who is working as a trainee draughtsman before going to university in the Netherlands to study maths.

He plays off a handicap of five and has not ruled out a career in golf but wants to complete his studies first, adding: "Even if I am at university in September, this final will take priority now. Don't worry about that, I'll be there!"

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\*\*\* The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketterley, Telford. Thursday, July 19, 2018

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